



AGAWAM Advertiser·News

Volume VIII Number 50

"Your Hometown Newspaper"

25c

AGAWAM PUBLIC LIBRARY
AGAWAM, MA 01001

December 12, 1985

Santa Claus Visits St. John's Bazaar



OLD ST. NICK listens to how good Kristen Strole, 1, and brother David Strole, 4, have been during the past year. Both told Santa to have a safe trip on Christmas Eve. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.



DAVID OWENS, 13 months, isn't quite sure what to make of Santa Claus who appeared at the St. John's Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, December 7th. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Town Promotes Two Firefighters

Two firefighters received promotions to lieutenant, bringing the Fire Department close to its full complement, Chief Russell Jenks said.

Stephen M. Martin of 21 Parkview Drive and Alan E. Boissonneault of 8 Sutton Place, were sworn in by Town Clerk Richard M. Theroux.

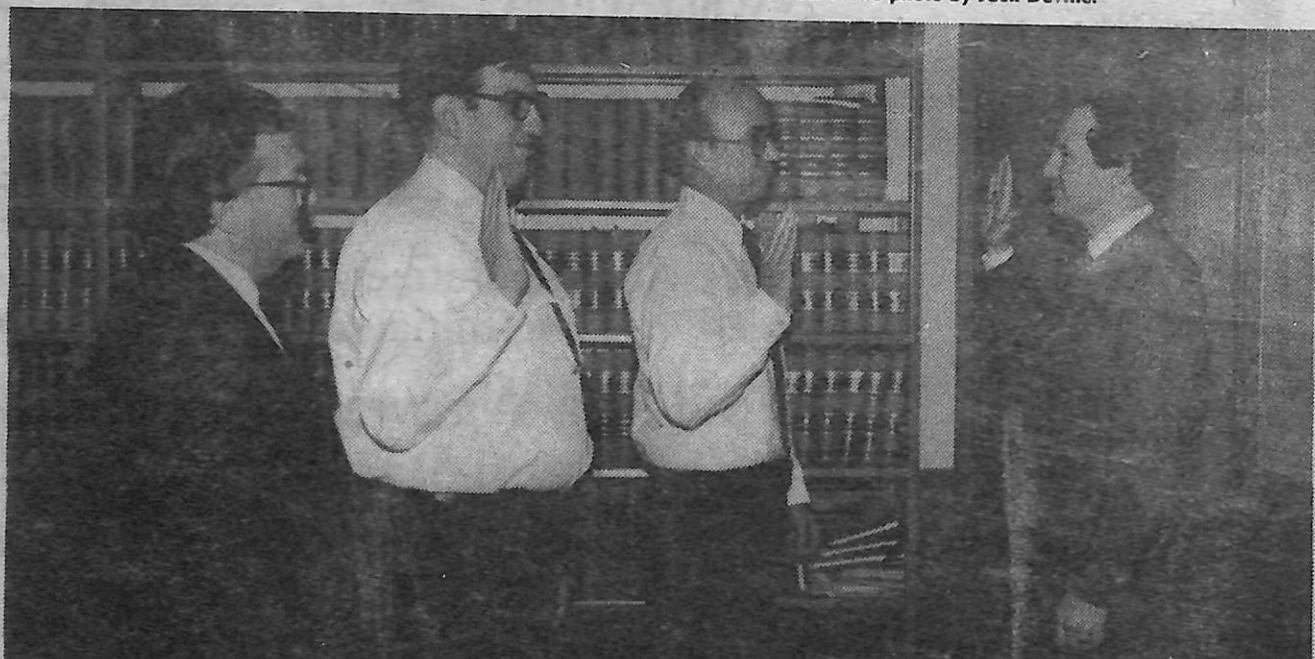
A third lieutenant position is expected to be filled next year. Firefighter Valentino Marai now serves as acting lieutenant.

Martin, a three-year member of the force, previously worked for the West Springfield Fire Department, but was laid off after Proposition 2½ was implemented. He is certified as an emergency medical technician.

Boissonneault, an 11-year veteran of the force, has previously served as an emergency medical technician.

Jenks said both lieutenants are now enrolled in a fire science course at Springfield Technical Community College.

The salaries of the two new lieutenants will increase to \$20,388 from \$19,658, Jenks said. They will join six other line officers responsible for supervising and training men at the two stations.



TOWN CLERK RICHARD THEROUX swears-in new Agawam Fire Department lieutenants Alan E. Boissonneault and Stephen Martin, as Town Council President Donald M. Rheault (left) looks on. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Mercadante Withdraws Zone Change Request

In a surprise move following his public hearing, Agawam developer James Mercadante has withdrawn a zone change request to build 180 condominiums on 33 acres off Pineview Circle.

Since Mercadante initially forwarded the proposal to Town Council last April, he has met with relentless opposition from Pineview Circle residents. Neighbors in this area told councilors again on Monday, December 2nd, that allowing Mercadante to build his condominiums would ruin the character of their neighborhood for various reasons.

Planners Were Deadlocked

The council defeated the zone change request in April after the Planning Board was deadlocked in its recommendation to the council.

Pineview Circle residents have been led by Agawam High Guidance Counselor Paul Cavallo, teacher Richard Joseph, Mr. & Mrs. Robert Shea, and Kathleen Donabed.

Cavallo, Mrs. Donabed, and the Sheas even went as far as to question whether Town Council President Donald M. Rheault, a supporter of the zone change, could vote for it.

Because Rheault's family is related to Mercadante, the four residents asked Town Attorney Anthony Bonavita to rule on the issue.

Rheault later said the four residents were ignorant of the law and were wasting taxpayers' money by asking Bonavita for a ruling. He said no conflict of interest existed. "As an elected public official, I would not violate the law by supporting this zone change. If those four (Cavallo, the Sheas, and Mrs. Donabed) had done their homework, they would have found I have always supported condominiums because they are good for the tax base of this community and are most desirable forms of housing for Agawam," said Rheault. "My record of supporting the tax base through cultivating business for this town is on the record and well-known by everyone."

"Asking Mr. Bonavita for a ruling would waste taxpayers' money. If they are that concerned, let them get their own legal counsel to do this," he added.

Because of the stiff opposition Mercadante faced in attempting to receive the zone change, he needed support from 12 of the 15-member council. This was

because enough property owners abutting the project signed a petition against the project. Normally, 10 votes, or two-thirds of the council is necessary to pass a zone change.

The council is slated to vote on the request at its December 16th meeting to withdraw without prejudice, according to Rheault. If the council passes this motion, the zone change request could again appear before the council in the immediate future.

Another twist which entered this issue came when Mercadante said after the council meeting he has sold the land to Roger Slate of Agawam, William Pappas of Wilbraham, and Donald Pottern of Longmeadow. In a published report, Attorney Anthony J. Scibelli, who represents the three new owners, said no plans presently exist to develop the land.

Withdrawn From Planning Board First

Both Mercadante and Scibelli would not comment on the purchase price of the land. The zone change proposal was officially withdrawn from the Planning Board at its Thursday, December 5th meeting.

Planners accepted the project's withdrawal without prejudice, giving Mercadante and the new owners seven days to put this into writing.

At that point, planners had still not forwarded a recommendation to the council concerning the project.

Scibelli also said Mercadante had negotiated the sale of the land approximately three months ago. Slate, Pappas, and Pottern have owned the land since the sale but it was held in trust.

If Mercadante could muster enough votes to receive the zone change, the price of the land would have been higher, Scibelli said.

The proposal included rezoning the land to residential A-3 from residential A-2 and agricultural. Planners said Mercadante could actually build 250 condominiums at the site, based on the law which allows eight multi-family units per acre.

Mercadante did shift gears from his original plan when he said an entrance to the condominiums would come from Main Street and not Pineview Circle. Mercadante said this option was more expensive than putting the entrance at Pineview Circle, but because of residential concerns, this would alleviate traffic and safety hazards on Pineview Circle.

**All the local news,
With us, every week!**

HOLIDAY DEADLINES

Please take note: Our deadline for next week's paper is moved up one day to Monday, December 16th, at noon time, for advertising and news copy. We will publish on Wednesday, December 18th.

For our Christmas edition of Saturday, December 21st, our final deadline for news and advertising copy will be Thursday, December 19th, at noon time for news and advertising copy.

We ask the cooperation of our readers in helping us meet our very hectic and tight deadline for the Christmas season.

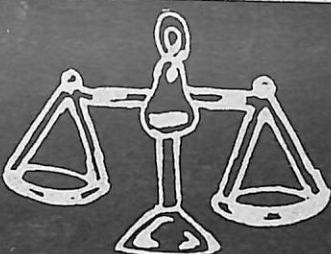
Property Tax Due Date Swiftly Approaching

Town Treasurer and Tax Collector Rodolfo Altobelli today reminded property owners that real estate bills are payable on or before December 23rd, 1985.

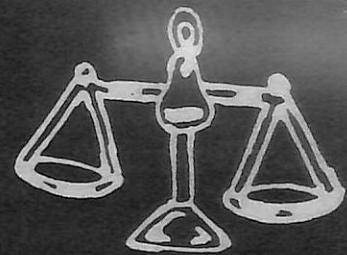
Payment after this date will be subject to a 14 percent interest charge retroactive to the date of mailing the tax bills.

Assistant Tax Collector Kay Muzzy said that in order to better accommodate late taxpayers, the Collector's Office will remain open until 5:30 p.m., on Monday, December 23rd.

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ATTORNEYS & COUNSELORS-AT-LAW



Are Your Affairs In Order?

- Do You Need A Will?
- Have You Designated A Guardian For Your Children?
- Who Will Administer Your Estate?
- Will Estate Taxes Be Payable?
- Will Your Wishes Regarding Burial Be Followed?
- Have You Provided For Your Children's Education?
- What Will Happen To Your Home And Furnishings?

These Are Some Of The Questions We Can Help You Answer.

Wills - Estate Planning - Trusts

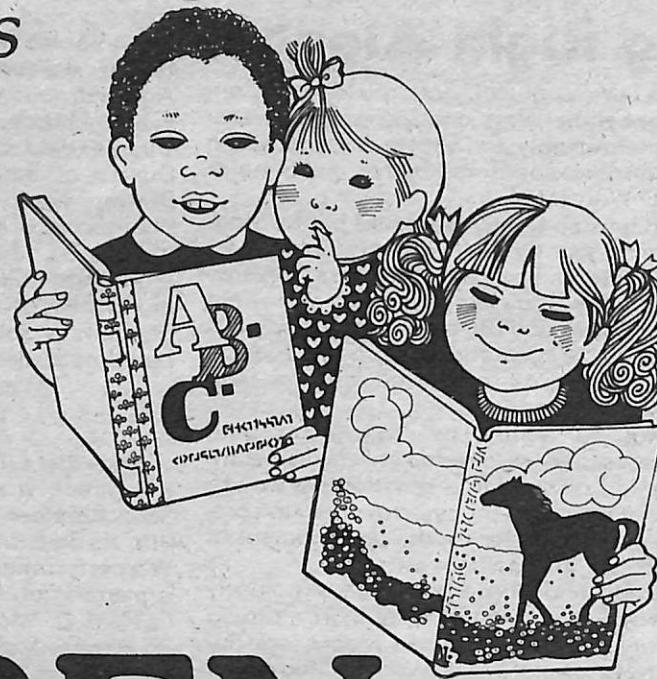
Call For An Appointment To Discuss Your Estate - No Charge For Your Initial Consultation - CALL TODAY!

Providing Agawam And Feeding Hills
With A Full Range Of Legal Services

Wills - Estates - Personal Injury - Litigation - Corporations

786-2211 • 1325 Springfield Street, Feeding Hills • 786-2211
(IN THE COMMUNITY SHOPS)

From Our Family To Yours BOOKS FOR CHILDREN



Special guest appearances by two children's book authors from Western Massachusetts

Jane Yolen writes "once upon a time" stories — folktales that touch the "long ago, faraway, before-you-were-born" in us. Her tales have the wonder ful ring of Grimm or Andersen, but emanate from her own original imagination.

To date, Jane Yolen has published over 50 books for young readers — including her 1974 National Book Award Finalist and A.L.A. Notable Book, *THE GIRL WHO CRIED FLOWERS AND OTHER TALES*, which also won The Golden Kite Award from The Society of Children's Book Writers, and *THE SEEING STICK*, winner of the 1978 Christopher Award.

Jane Yolen also wrote these popular books: *THE BIRD OF TIME*, 1971; *THE BOY WHO HAD WINGS*, 1974; *THE GIRL WHO CRIED FLOWERS AND OTHER TALES*, 1974; *THE GIRL WHO LOVED THE WIND*, 1972; *THE HUNDREDTH DOVE AND OTHER TALES*, 1977; *THE MAGIC THREE OF SOLATIA*, 1974; *MILKWEED DAYS*, 1976; *THE MOONRIBBON AND OTHER TALES*, 1976; *NO BATH TONIGHT*, 1978; *RAINBOW RIDER*, 1974; *THE SEEING STICK*, 1977; *THE TRANSFIGURED HART*, 1975; *THE WIZARD ISLANDS*, 1973.



Patricia MacLachlan, the author of several books for young readers, didn't always know she wanted to be a writer, but she did know, almost from the start, she loved books. "When I was young, my mother would lead me home from the library as I read, her hand on my neck, guiding me across streets and up and down curbs. By the time I got home, my books were all finished and it was time to return to the library for more. I still read that way."

All Patricia MacLachlan's books — picture books for young children and stories and novels for older readers — have been warmly received by children and adults alike.

"Good books touch and change lives," Ms. MacLachlan feels, "particularly children's lives because children read with a true belief and genuine desire to give themselves over to be carried along with the story. At the same time, children demand an honesty from those who write for them."

Arthur, For The Very First Time (1980), *Through Grandpa's Eyes* (1980), *Mama One, Mama Two* (1982), *Cassie Binegar* (1982), *Tomorrow's Wizard* (1982), *Seven Kisses In A Row* (1983), *Unclaimed Treasures* (1984), *Sarah, Plain and Tall* (1985).



**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14th at the
following Big 'Y' Supermarkets.**

JANE YOLEN

11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Breckwood Blvd. and Wilbraham Rd., Springfield

2 p.m.-4 p.m. Route 75, Suffield St., Agawam

PATRICIA MACLACHLAN

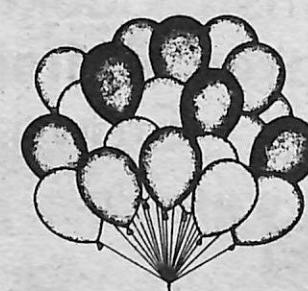
11 a.m.-1 p.m. - Route 20, West Springfield

2 p.m.-4 p.m. - 100 Broad St., Westfield



PLUS...

Gilligan The Clown and other characters will be handing out balloons and refreshments to all the children.



Melconian Reports That Group Auto Moving Right Along

Senator Linda J. Melconian (D-Springfield) today announced that the Senate Ways and Means Committee has reported out favorably for Senate floor action a group auto proposal co-sponsored by her and Senator John Houston (D-Worcester).

"Auto insurance is so tightly regulated by the State Insurance Commissioner that very little innovation occurs within the system. The current system prevents competition, guarantees a set price that will yield healthy profits for insurance companies, and precludes the industry from experimentation with new products that potentially could result in reduced rates for auto consumers," said Senator Melconian.

"Our task was to rethink pending group auto legislative concepts and to develop a legislative initiative which would respond in a constructive way to create more flexibility within the system, open up competition, and to make it easier for the development of group auto insurance in Massachusetts."

"Senator Houston and I have been working closely with Senate Ways and Means Chairman Patricia McGovern, as well as the Ways and Means and Insurance Committees' staffs. We are very excited about this proposal which authorizes the insurance commissioner to establish, within the state, a demonstration pilot project for group auto insurance."

"This project will not only test the concepts of group auto insurance, but will also allow for the introduction and experimentation of new products which, when applied to group marketing, should result in premium savings for auto insurance policy holders," she said.

According to Senator Melconian, the bill will lift certain statutory restrictions which have made it difficult for insurers and agents to underwrite group auto insurance.

"Our proposal eliminates the 35 percent requirement necessary for groups to qualify for group auto insurance. Our proposal provides for an established group, such as a union or an association, to be eligible for group auto insurance as long as the group consists of a minimum membership of 25, 15 of whom must live in the Commonwealth," said Senator Melconian.

"Group auto insurance is potentially beneficial to western Massachusetts citizens," pointed out Senator Melconian, "because the group, through an employer based association, union, or a governmental employees unit, would be able to control its own insurance costs based on the experience of the group rather than through the territorial structure as currently established by the insurance commissioner."

"Group insurance has been found to be effective and cost saving in both the life and health areas. Evidence suggests, through reduction of administrative costs and by providing competition for consumer insurance business, that similar premium dollar savings would be realized in the group auto insurance area."

"One of my highest priorities as senate chairwoman of the Insurance Committee is to try to reduce auto rates for western Massachusetts auto consumers."

"I believe this group auto demonstration project will once and for all determine the cost effectiveness of group auto insurance for western Mass policy holders," said Senator Melconian.

"Tis The Season To Be Jolly"

ORDER NOW FOR CHRISTMAS

Rib Roasts, Spoon Roasts, Turkeys, Hams, Swordfish, Cooked Salads, Party Platters, Cooked Shrimp, Stuffed Shrimp And Crown Roast Of Pork



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35 Southwick Street, Feeding Hills
Open Monday - Friday 8:00 A.M. To 7:00 P.M.
Weekends 8:00 A.M. - 7:30 P.M.

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"Great Meats On The Hill"

Marie Dupuis

Agawam: Marie "Atna" (Benoit) Dupuis, 89, of 256 Regency Park Drive, died Monday, December 9th in Baystate Medical Center, Springfield. A native and former resident of Springfield, she had lived in Agawam four years. She was a communicant of Holy Name Church, Springfield. Her husband, Hector A. Dupuis, died in 1970. She leaves two sons, Norman Dupuis of Springfield and Kenneth Tootill of New Berlin, New York; three daughters, Marjorie Bourgeois of East Longmeadow, and Elaine Gour of Charleston, South Carolina, and Eunice Bruno of Agawam; 20 grandchildren and 45 great-grandchildren. The funeral was Wednesday morning at St. Pierre & Son Funeral Home and in the church with burial in St. Michael's Cemetery, all in Springfield.

Lillian A. McQuade

Agawam: Lillian A. (Burke) McQuade, 86, of 42 Central Street, a retired credit department employee of Sears Roebuck and Company, died Monday, December 9th, in Baystate Medical Center, Springfield. Born in Worcester, she had lived in Agawam 25 years. She was a member of Agawam Baptist Church. Her husband, Clifford D. McQuade, died in 1975. She leaves two daughters, Vale Hardy of West Haven, Connecticut and Norma Werthamer of Agawam; and six grandchildren. The funeral was Wednesday morning at Colonial Funeral Home with burial in Agawam Center Cemetery. Donations may be made to any charity.

John H. Liptak

Agawam: John H. Liptak, Sr., 78, of 50 Kensington Street, in the Feeding Hills section, retired assistant personnel manager at Baystate Gas Company, died Sunday, December 8th, at home.

He worked at the gas company for 45 years, retiring in 1972.

Born in Westfield, he was a 1927 graduate of the Bay Path School of Business in Springfield. He had lived in Feeding Hills 53 years.

Liptak was a founder and treasurer of the Polish-American Club and a past president of the West Agawam Community League.

He was a communicant of Sacred Heart Church and president of its Holy Name Society.

He leaves his wife of 54 years, the former Anna Kostrisak; two sons, John H. Jr. of Feeding Hills and Dr. Robert J. of Westfield; a daughter, Carleton Riggott of Granby, Connecticut; three brothers, Herbert of Westfield, Ralph of Southwick and Edward of Russell; a sister, Sophie Cowles of Westfield; and 10 grandchildren.

The funeral was Thursday morning at Curran-Jones Funeral Home and in the church with burial in Springfield Street Cemetery. Donations may be made to the church building fund.

LEGAL NOTICE

On or after this date (December 12th, 1985) I will no longer be responsible for bills contracted by anyone other than myself.

Dorothy B. Brown

278 North West Street

Feeding Hills, MA

Published: December 12th, 18th, and 21st

LEGAL NOTICE

POSTING NOTICE

Agawam Obituaries

Mildred E. Reed, 65, Recently Retired School Teacher

The funeral of Mildred E. (Wood) Reed, 65, of 28 South Alhambra Circle, who was killed Monday, December 9th, in a car accident on the Massachusetts Turnpike, was Thursday afternoon, December 12th, at Curran Jones Funeral Home. Burial will be at the convenience of the family.

Mrs. Reed was an English teacher for 20 years at the Agawam High School. She has previously taught in Newport, Vermont, and North Kingston, Rhode Island. Born in Swampscott, she had lived in Agawam 31 years.

She attended Cambridge Schools and was a graduate of Wheaton College, Norton.

She was a member of the Mother Church, First Church of Christ Science, Boston, and was a reader at the First Church of Christ Science in Springfield.

Her husband, Ernest A. Reed, died in 1980.

She leaves a son, David E. of the Housatonic section of Great Barrington; a daughter, Marcia Reed-Hendricks of Easthampton; and two grandchildren.

Donations may be made to a scholarship fund in her name in care of Agawam High School, 760 Cooper Street, Agawam, MA, 01001.

Frances H. Hodge

Agawam: Frances H. (Irons) Hodge, 101, of 70 Bailey Street, a retired inspector at the former East Springfield plant of Westinghouse Corporation, died Sunday, December 8th, in Baystate Medical Center, Springfield. Born in Willington, Connecticut, she had lived in Springfield 40 years before she moved to Agawam in 1965. She was a member of Agawam Baptist Church. Her husband, Everett G. Hodge, died in 1964. She leaves a son, Everett J. of Agawam; a daughter, Gladys L. Hodge of Pomona, New York; four sisters, Cora Irons, Cleova Lockwood, Phoebe McClellan and Hazel Ayer, all of Manchester, Connecticut; two grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. The funeral was Wednesday in the church with burial in Springfield Cemetery. Colonial Funeral Home was in charge. Donations may be made to the church.

All the hometown news, with us - AAN

MUNICIPAL EVENTS

COLONIAL FUNERAL HOME

Monday, December 16th
Town Council Meeting
Public Library
8:00 P.M.

Thursday, December 19th
Board of Appeals Meeting
Town Hall Annex
7:30 P.M.

Friday, December 20th
Last Day Of School
Christmas Vacation

Wednesday, December 25th
Town Hall Closed
CHRISTMAS DAY

Thursday, December 26th
Town Hall Reopens
8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

Colonial Funeral Home

985 MAIN STREET, AGAWAM
733-3625

Serving Families Of All
Faiths And National Origin

Melconian Announces Health Bill Passes

Senator Linda J. Melconian (D-Springfield) today announced that the Senate successfully passed a bill establishing cardiac rehabilitation as a basic benefit of health insurance policies.

Senator Melconian, Senate Chairwoman of the Legislature's Insurance Committee, pointed out, "Medical data clearly substantiates that heart failure is the number one health problem responsible for premature deaths in the United States. The purpose of this bill is to provide health insurance coverage for individuals with documented cardiovascular disease who wish to participate in a cardiac rehabilitation program. Without health insurance benefits, many victims of heart failure would not financially be able to participate in these programs."

In addition to the health benefits, Senator Melconian stated, "The bill assures consumers that cardiac programs will provide quality care due to the Commissioner of Public Health establishing minimum standards that all cardiac rehabilitation programs must meet in order to qualify for insurance reimbursement."

In order for candidates to be eligible for cardiac rehabilitation, the bill requires that treatment in the program must be initiated within twenty six weeks after a diagnosis of cardiovascular disease.

"From a public policy standpoint, we must do everything medically possible to address the health issue of heart failure," said Senator Melconian.

It is expected that the bill will satisfy all procedural legislative requirements and reach the governor's desk this week.

Attorney General On Look-Out For Scams

Each week, Attorney General Francis X. Bellotti's Consumer Protection Division handles approximately 3,000 inquiries from consumers, many of whom believe they have been deceived by unscrupulous businesses.

The Attorney General brings lawsuits against many businesses which violate the Consumer Protection Act. Until recently, however, the act did not allow the Commonwealth to collect civil penalties and attorneys' fees in consumer protection cases, forcing those costs upon the taxpayers instead.

That changed on November 5th, when Governor Michael Dukakis signed into law legislation sponsored by Bellotti, which enables the state to assess civil penalties of up to \$5,000 per violation on Massachusetts merchants that violate the Consumer Protection Act.

Prior to the amendment, first-time violators could be ordered by courts to cease their unfair and deceptive practices, but no cash penalty could be assessed until they violated the order. The amendment takes effect in early February.

"This change brings Massachusetts into line with other states which provide first-time civil penalties for consumer law violations," Bellotti said, pointing out that the amount of actual penalties awarded, if any, remains at the court's discretion.

"I am pleased that the Legislature and the governor saw fit to enact this amendment. It puts the cost of violating the law where it should be — with the violators, not with consumers," Bellotti concluded.

Registry Of Deeds

Total documents for week ending November 29th

REGISTRY	LAND REGISTRATION
Deeds	258 Deeds
Mortgages	377 Mortgages
Discharges	189 Discharges
Attachments	11 Attachments
Foreclosures	0 Foreclosures
Miscellaneous	484 Miscellaneous
Total	1,319 Total
	86

Submitted by Donald E. Ashe, Register of Deeds.

PLEASE NOTE: Our deadline for next week's paper is MONDAY at noon time for articles and for advertising. Because of the holidays, we must enforce this deadline!

Agawam Post Office Extends Holiday Hours

Agawam Postmaster Lillian Giles announced the extension of Window Services as an added convenience to customers during the holiday season.

On Saturday, December 14th, and Saturday, December 21st, window hours will be from 8:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Customers who are shut-in, working, or for some other reason cannot get to the Post Office, should utilize the "Stamps By Mail Program." In the past, Stamp by Mail was promoted mostly to customers who found it difficult or impossible to leave their homes to purchase postage.

The new policy directs promotion to all customers who would find it useful. The service is free. The order envelopes (or holiday catalogs) are obtained from letter carriers or by phoning the Agawam Post Office.

After completing the order, customers may drop the sealed envelope in a collection box or hand it to their letter carrier. No postage is necessary.

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF AGAWAM Board Of Appeals

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Appeals will give a hearing at Administration Annex Building, Agawam, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1985 at 7:30 P.M. o'clock, to all parties interested in the appeal of FREDERICK SADAK who is seeking relief from Section 20, Paragraph 38 of the Zoning Ordinances to allow the construction of a single family residence on a proposed lot with less than the required frontage identified as LOT 5A ALLISON LANE.

By order of the Board of Appeals
Theodore A. Progulske
Chairman

Published: December 5th, 1985

LEGAL NOTICE

TOWN OF AGAWAM Board Of Appeals

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Appeals will give a hearing at Administration Annex Building, Agawam, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1985 at 8:00 p.m. o'clock, to all parties interested in the appeal of CAROLYN E. BORKOSKY who is seeking relief from Section 20, Paragraph 38 of the Zoning Ordinances to allow the construction of a single family residence on a lot with less than the required frontage identified as (PARCEL A) 188 PINE STREET.

By order of the Board of Appeals
Theodore A. Progulske
Chairman

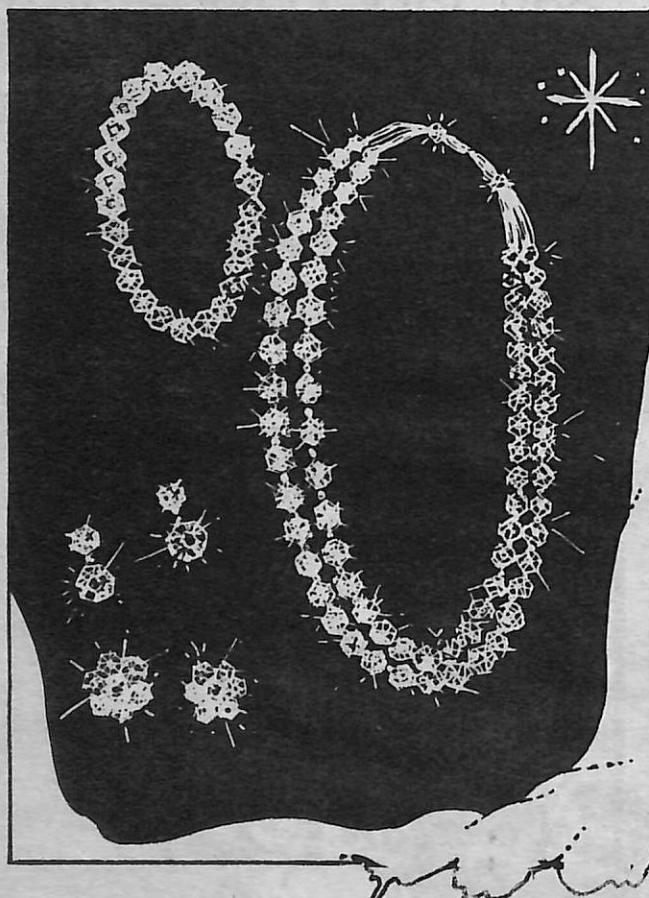
Published: December 5th, 1985

Christmas Diamonds... ...Are Like No Others

Diamonds For Christmas Sale

Now Extended Thru Thursday, December 19th

Give Her A Sparkling Diamond On Christmas Morning And Watch Her Radiate With A Special Glow. We Back Each And Every Purchase With 30 Years Of Established Tradition Of Service, As Well As Our Personal Guarantee Of The Very Best In Quality. Stop In Today!



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383 Walnut Street
Agawam, MA 01001
(413) 786-3664

Layaways Accepted

Tues., Wed., Thurs. 9:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M., Fri. 9:00 A.M. - 7:00 P.M.

Sat. 9:00 A.M. - 3:00 P.M.,

Now Open Mondays 9:00 - 5:00 For The Holidays

Master Card, Visa, American Express





Families

St. John's Enjoys Another Successful Bazaar



SEVEN MONTH-OLD Marci Lee Meunier can't understand what all the excitement is about at the St. John's Bazaar, held Friday and Saturday, December 6th and 7th. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Catholic Women's Club Sets December Meeting

The Agawam Catholic Women's Club will hold its December meeting on December 16th, at 8:00 p.m. in the Parish Center. Mrs. Paula Raiche, chairperson, has arranged for the choral group from Agawam High School to entertain with songs of the season. Mrs. Rose Graziano is hospitality chairperson.

Members wishing to participate in a gift exchange should bring a \$2.00 gift for Mrs. Santa to distribute. The club is also accepting gifts to be donated to the Open Pantry, an organization that provides food and shelter for the homeless. Gifts should be wrapped and labeled as to whether it's for a man, woman, or child. Children's gifts should also indicate the appropriate age range. Your generosity can help brighten the holidays for those less fortunate.

Junior Women's Club Plans Annual Christmas Party

The December meeting of the Agawam Junior Women's Club will be held on Tuesday, December 17th, at 7:30 p.m., at the Captain Charles Leonard House, Agawam. The Annual Christmas Party and Cookie Swap will follow the meeting. Each member is asked to bring seven dozen cookies and an exchange gift. One dozen cookies will be donated to the Clearinghouse Project and the remainder will be exchanged among members.

Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month and new members and guests are always welcome.

Junior Women's Club To Answer Letters To Santa

Has your child written his letter to Santa in hopes of receiving a reply? The Agawam Junior Women's Club will be helping Santa answer his mail.

To receive a reply to your letter, send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to Santa c/o R. Dalesi, 1 Michael Street, Feeding Hills, MA, 01030, or Santa c/o E. Hamre, 24 Tanglewood, Feeding Hills, MA, 01030.



HALFWAY COVERED BY POINSETTIA PLANTS at the Annual St. John's Church Christmas Bazaar last weekend, December 6th and 7th are, from left -Linda McCormick, and Kay Monahan and Lee Owens, co-chairwomen of the event. A huge throng of townsfolk turned out for this very successful event.

Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Providence Hospital To Hold Annual Sibling Class

The Providence Hospital "Sibling Class" will be held on Thursday, December 19th, at 6:30 p.m., in the hospital cafeteria. The class is free and open to all children of expectant parents, even if the delivery of the new baby is planned at another hospital.

According to Claire A. Margosiak, RN, clinical nurse manager for maternal and child health at Providence, the class is designed to answer questions youngsters may have about the birth of a new brother or sister.

Each child has a chance to handle life-sized dolls to learn how to hold a baby. Types of behavior and activities to expect from newborns is discussed. Children also make a gift for their parents, a picture drawn by themselves of the new baby.

Suzanne Gordon, RN, is instructor for the class.

Refreshments are served to parents and children and a tour of the hospital's nursery is given.

Over 1,100 youngsters have been through the class since it began in 1979. Ages of children have ranged from 17 months to 12 years. Class size is usually around 15, but no one is turned away for lack of space.

Parents are asked to register children during the last two months before the birth "because children have no concept of time and if they take the class too soon, they become impatient for the new arrival," Ms. Margosiak said.

Persons with questions or who wish to register children may call Ms. Margosiak at the hospital, 536-5111, extension 2392.

For copies of photos in this edition, please call Jack Devine at his home, 789-0053

Visit Our Christmas Shoppe

Feeding Hills Florist

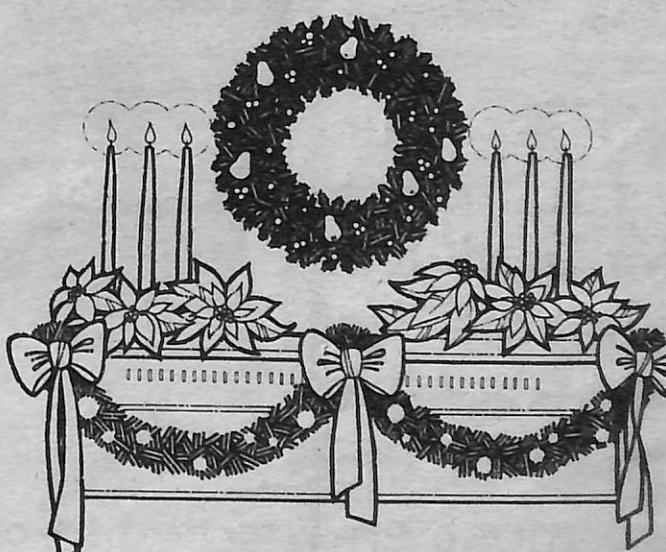
Good Selection Of Christmas Ornaments

Order Fresh Arrangements And Wire Orders Early

Centerpieces
\$12.50 & Up

Decorative
Candy

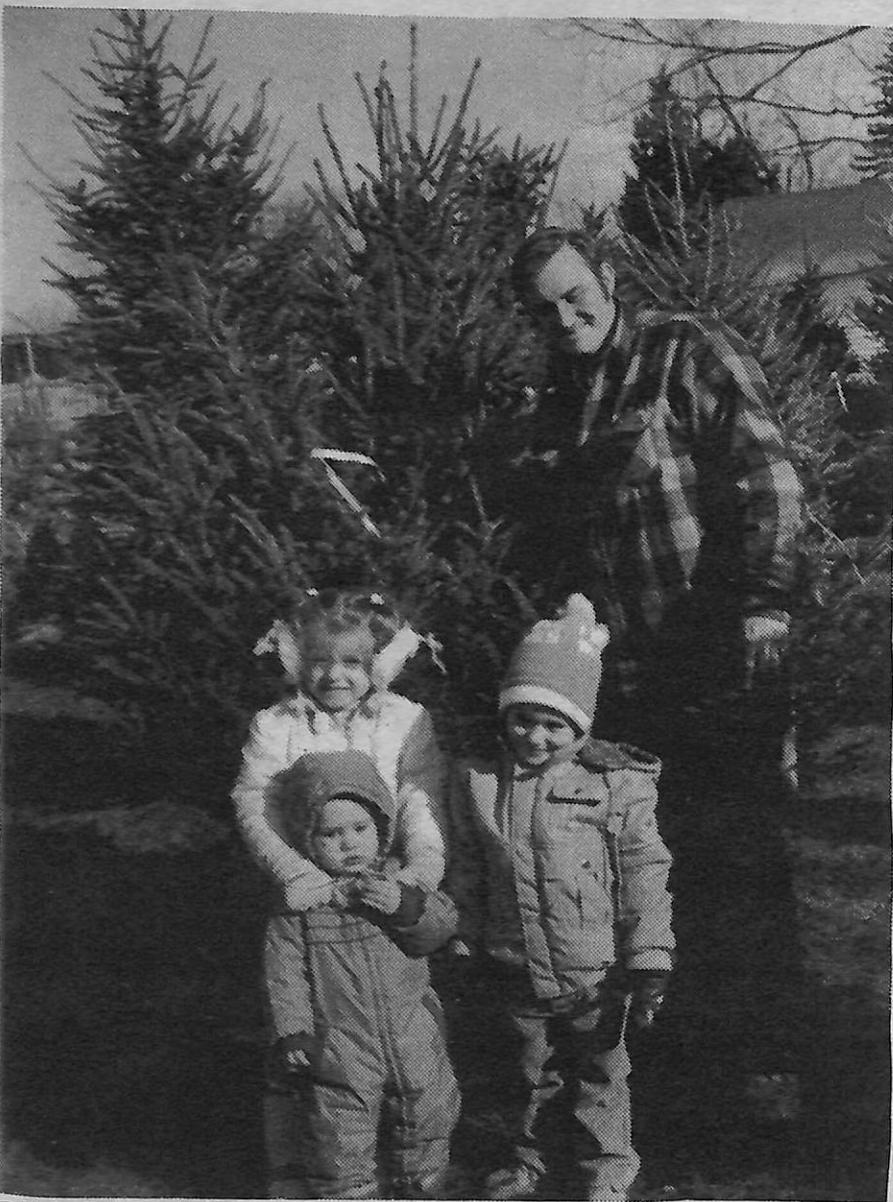
Poinsettias
\$10.00 & Up



**(413)
786-9764**

8 Southwick Street, Feeding Hills, MA - In The Crossroads Shoppes - Feeding Hills Center
Sun. 11:00 - 5, Mon. & Tues. 9-7, Wed. - Sat. 9-9

Bill Raymond's Christmas Trees



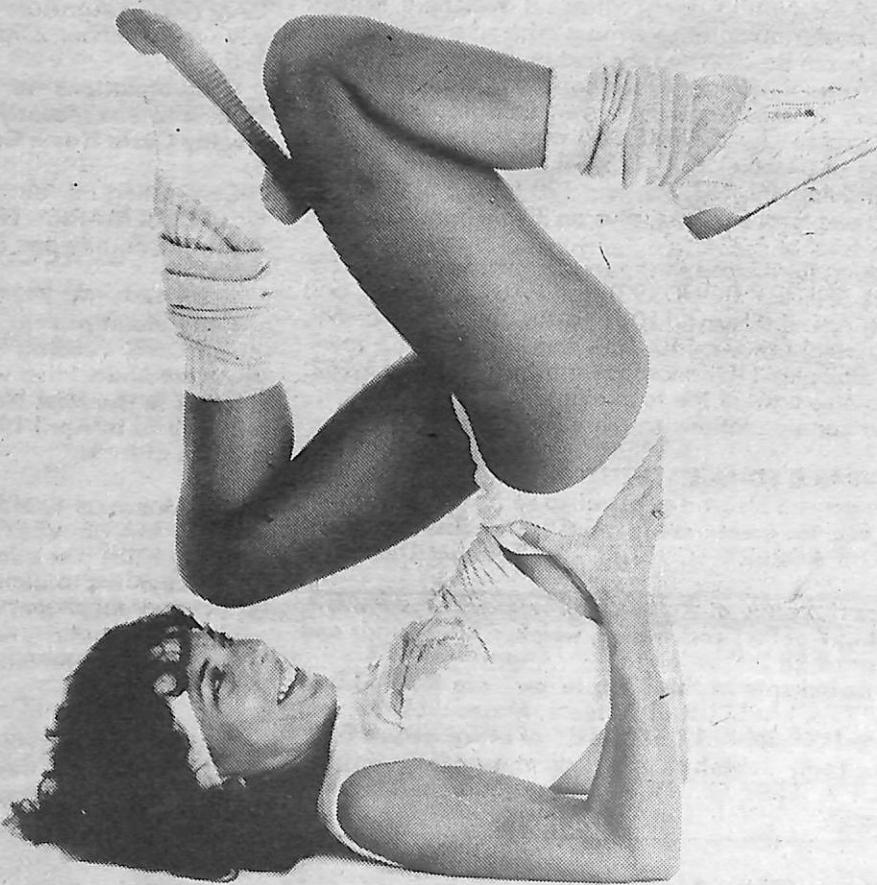
BILL RAYMOND, owner and operator of Feeding Hills Nursery and Stove Shop assists youngsters Jennifer, 5, Christopher, 1, and Michael Devine (no relation to Jack Devine) with selecting their Christmas tree at his Springfield Street facility. Bill also has cut-down-your-own trees on Saturday only. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.



RANDY ZYMROZ finds a tree at Feeding Hills Nursery on Saturday, December 7th. Owner Bill Raymond has plenty of trees still in stock at very reasonable prices. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

PLEASE NOTE: The deadline for next week's paper is Monday, December 17th, at noontime, for ad and news copy. Please be prompt as our schedule is very tight for the holiday season

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6 WEEKS ONLY \$39

Offer expires December 24th at 4 p.m.

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MORE FRIENDS & NEIGHBORS

by Vi Massoia

Another precious jewel for RON & BRENDA HAMEL of Agawam. AMANDA FRANCES was born on December 7th, at 5:58 a.m. She weighed seven pounds, five ounces, and measured 22 inches long.

Sister SARAH is two years-old and will help mom take care of Amanda. Grandparents are MRS. BEATRICE HAMEL of Agawam and MR. & MRS. VITO DEPALO also of Agawam. Great-grandpa MR. HARBI LEWIS lives in Lowell. Ron is owner and operator of Letalien Jewelers.

Friends & Neighbors send congratulations to JIM DION of Feeding Hills for being named "Agent of the Month" - for November. Jim is associated with the Feeding Hills office of Bergeron and Mellis Inc., Realtors. He has been with them since January and they report that he is enjoying a successful career. He specializes in both residential and investment real estate.

Jim is also a familiar face around the Sacred Heart baseball field during the summer months.

Forty teams from Agawam, Hatfield, Southampton, Springfield, North Adams, Pittsfield, Westfield, Millers Falls, and Wilmington, Vermont entered a tournament at Agawam Bowl. When the last ball was rolled in the 8th Annual Greater Springfield Open-Women's Doubles it was Agawam's own DEBBIE CHECHILE (100) and PAULA BURKE (99) who came in first with strings of (Debbie) 104, 125, 93, 102, 131 for a 555; and (Paula) 109, 157, 98, and 120 for a 5,589 for a combined total of 1,144, plus an 80 pin handicap for a grant total of 1,224.

Taking third place in the tournament were Agawam sisters SHERRY BOND (93) and PAULA BURKE (99) for strings of (Sherry) 110, 104, 88, 98, 99 for a 499; and (Paula) 118, 93, 110, 100, and 132 for a 553, totaling 1,052 plus 110 handicap for a grand total of 1,162. Paula also bowled the high single of 157.

Our congratulations to these three women.

IRVING & EDNA LAFLEUR of Washington Avenue, Agawam, are pleased as punch to spread the news that they became great-grandparents for the first time when JOSEPH ROBERT SCULLEY was born on December 2nd.

The first child of ROBERT & THERESA (LAFLEUR) SCULLEY of Portland, Maine, weighed 8 1/4 pounds and measured 22 inches long.

Grandparents of this "big fellow" are RONALD & LORETTA LAFLEUR of Scituate, Massachusetts, and MR. & MRS. ROBERT SCULLEY of Massapequa Park, New York. Joseph's other great-grandparents are PHILIP & JESSIE SIEBER of Rincon, Georgia (Loretta's parents).

'Tis The Season For A Season's Pass

With Christmas just around the corner and the shopping malls filled with shoppers, Riverside Park offers an alternative to the hustle and bustle of Christmas shopping.

Riverside Park, New England's largest and best amusement park, offers season passes for the "ultimate" Christmas gift. A Riverside Season's Pass can be used over and over again, keeping the thrills and chills all season long. The Season's Pass costs only \$29.95 for an adult (9 years and up) for a first pass, and \$22.95 for a renewal pass. "Small fry" passes are as little as \$19.95 (three to eight or 48 inches in height or under) for a first pass, or \$13.95 for a renewal pass.

The pass entitles the bearer to enjoy all the rides, shows and attractions all day long, everyday, during the 1986 season! And season passes are available 24 hours a day, Monday to Sunday. Just visit the personnel office Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., or the Security Office any other time of the day or night and purchase a season's pass for everyone on your Christmas list.

Riverside, New England's largest amusement park, will be open for the 1986 season on March 29th to September 28th. A year full of fun and adventure awaits with a season's pass. It's a gift that will please an adult or child all "season" long.



Wanted

Single items or Complete Estates. Antiques-Collections-Household Contents

Sell It At Auction
Lynn E. Ugolini

A surprise party was given to ANNA MERCADANTE, 134 Country Road, Agawam, and PETER SMITKOWSKI, 461 Elm Street, West Springfield, on Saturday, November 30th, by MRS. PAOLINA MERCADANTE in honor of their recent wedding engagement.

The event was held at DaVinci's Restaurant in Feeding Hills. A sit-down dinner was served. They were greeted by 35 family members and close friends who attended this special occasion for the very surprised couple. A wedding is planned for October 11th, 1986. Best wishes to Anna & Peter!!

DAWN (KUNASEK) SULLIVAN celebrated her birthday on November 15th. Friends and Neighbors would like to say happy birthday and best wishes.

MR. & MRS. LOUIS (FANNIE) PEDULLA of Meadow Street, Agawam, celebrated their 51st wedding anniversary on Sunday, December 1st.

Their children, LOUIS JR., of California; ROSEMARIE of Agawam; JANET POPE of East Longmeadow; and MARY ANN of Springfield; as well as other family members, including their two grandchildren, would like to say "congratulations."

November 29th was the 18th birthday of LORI JURY of Horsham Place, Feeding Hills. Belated wishes are being sent to her from her family.

Belated birthday wishes are being sent to KIM CAMYRE of Agawam who celebrated her 13th birthday on November 23rd.

Congratulations to SANDRA PARO, of Feeding Hills, who was recently promoted to office manager of Quality Circle Home Care Services of West Springfield.

Celebrating her birthday on Sunday, December 1st, was ROSEMARIE PEDULLA of Meadow Street, Agawam. Family and friends wish her a belated happy birthday.

Congratulations to ANN MARIE AVERY of 20 Robin Lane, Feeding Hills. This 9th grade student at Agawam Junior High was chosen to be one of the state finalists in the Miss National Teenage Pageant which will be held in April 1986. Her family and friends wish her lots of luck.

The Massoias would like to say happy anniversary to PHIL & MARIE VECCHIARELLI of Kellogg Avenue, Feeding Hills. Their family, which includes their sons DOM and his wife, MARY ANN, and their son, STEVEN; PHILIP and his wife, JODI; DEAN, DAVID, and PETER held a small family celebration. The Vecchiarelli's anniversary date was Thanksgiving, November 28th.

Happy "Sweet 16th Birthday" wishes to JENNIFER KELLEY. Jen's big day was December 4th. This birthday wish is from her good friend, GINNY AVIS.



RICHARD A. ZINI, JR., and TAMMY LUCIA

Tammy Lucia Engaged To Richard A. Zini Jr.

Mr. & Mrs. Raymond F. Lucia, Jr., of 777 Silver Street, Agawam, are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Tammy Joanne, to Richard A. Zini, Jr., son of Mr. & Mrs. Richard A. Zini, Sr., of 654 North Street, Feeding Hills.

Miss Lucia currently works for the family business, Lucia Lumber Company of Agawam. Mr. Zini is employed by Shawmut First Bank and Trust, Springfield.

The two plan to be wed in September 1987.

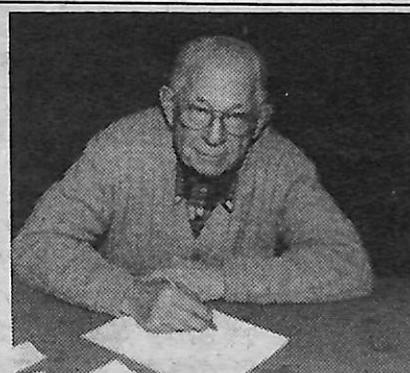
Agawam Women's Club Schedules Christmas Meeting

The Christmas meeting of the Agawam Women's Club will be held Monday, December 16th, at 8:00 p.m., at the Captain Charles Leonard House.

The Agawam High School Chorale will present a musical program following a short business meeting. Members who would like to participate in a Cookie Exchange are asked to each bring three dozen cookies and the recipe if they are willing to share it.

Karen Douglass will be assisted by Phyllis Cathepaugh, Theresa Ferrero and Doris Maule for the hospitality tour.

All the hometown news with us, every week!



"A Community Achiever"

The "COMMUNITY ACHIEVER" for the month of December is awarded to George L. Reynolds

George graduated from Agawam High School in 1928 and served as their class president for all 4 years. He graduated from Amherst College in 1932 and then taught

at Agawam High School from 1933 to 1939. In 1934 he married his high school sweetheart, Esther L. Schwartz. He was elected to the Agawam Planning Board in 1947, and was appointed Building Inspector the same year serving for 7 years. In 1949 he served as chairman of the Agawam School Building Survey Committee, the following year he was chosen as the Chairman of the New High School Building Committee and then elected Superintendent of Schools. He was elected as a member of the Agawam Board of Assessors in 1957 and served for 9 years. He was President and is today the Treasurer and Superintendent of the Agawam Cemetery Association, was the first Commissioner for the Agawam Little League, a Judge for the Agawam Board of Appeals, elected to the Agawam Board of Selectmen in 1967, was the clerk for the Senior Citizens Center. In 1980 he was chosen by the Agawam Rotary Club to be awarded their highest award, A Paul Harris Fellowship. It was the Rotary Club's first award and was given to George L. Reynolds for his service to the Town of Agawam.

A Salute to You George for being a very special person.

A Public Service Recognition From
Toomey-O'Brien Funeral Home
Of West Springfield



in old Agawam

PUBLISHER'S NOTE: Local historians Marilyn and Dick Curry, after spending a portion of this past summer contacting local and state official about a great willow tree at the ancient site of the Flower/Fisk House on South Westfield Street, were ready to make another inspection of the property and the tree to find further evidence of its historic significance in Part II of a three-part series.

By this time, the warm days of August were here. Having arrived on the scene, we noticed that during the interim of time, a local farmer had mowed some considerable acreage of hayland just behind the old Flower/Fisk House on South Westfield Street.

The air was filled with the pleasant scent of sweet drying hay and just beyond the property, we noticed a large groundhog who had just exited his mound and was standing in military fashion peering at us with a concerned countenance; undoubtedly, somewhat perplexed at these human critters who had trespassed on his private domain. Several times the old fellow made an appearance. Finally having decided we meant him no harm, he went about his later afternoon chore of munching on sweet clover tips.

We decided to approach the tree from the rear of the houseyard (hoping there might be less bramble bushes to encounter than were evident toward the front of the property.) Apparently at some ancient time, the backyard must have given way to a swamp and all that now remained were grass hummocks upon which we made our precarious way toward the tree.

Pushing aside towering stalks of weeds, we finally arrived upon the scene only to learn to our dismay that the tree was covered with poison ivy! Traveler beware! At this point in time and as dusk was fast approaching, we measured the base of the tree as best we could from ground level to about four feet above the surface.

The Agawam Advertiser News

Needless to say, we were not disappointed in our earlier conviction that the tree was worthy of consideration since the approximate measurements, checked and rechecked, disclosed a cross-measurement of over 100 inches in diameter and this was at least four feet from the base. On the basis of pure speculation, we presumed that the ancient giant was indeed worthy of further examination by the authorities.

October's Bright Blue Weather

For weeks, we anxiously awaited some contact from an authority at UMass. As September passed and the bright blue weather of October approached, we finally received a phone call from Forester Michael Parker of Hampton Ponds State Park. This was the call we had been waiting for since our initial contact with the state.

On a crisp autumn day, Mrs. Curry and the state forester visited the site and the professional measurements of the tree were taken.

The following statistics are those forwarded to the proper authorities at the University of Massachusetts: "This tree might need to be examined for an absolute identification on species as it was a shade tree for an old house. However, it does exhibit typical black Willow characteristics. Measurements: 197½" circumference; 67' height; 78½' average spread; and total measurements, 284 feet.

According to the legal means of identification for a champion tree, we quote from an excerpt taken from the Yankee article: "Add the circumference in inches and the height in feet. Divide the width of the tree's spread in feet by four, and add that to the first sum, and you have the all-important score."

Although our personal computations reveal a total score of 284.125 points as compared to the 284 feet by the forester, we do abide by the findings of a more authoritative investigator. In any respect, the old willow tree most certainly subscribes to being a champion specimen.

What Happens Now?

Once again, Mrs. Curry was asked to appear at a meeting of the Hampden County Commissioners, whereupon she learned of the sad news that the Flower/Fisk House was destined for demolition since no one had qualified as a buyer of the house who met the financial requirements to have it relocated.

However, armed with the recent findings concerning the willow tree, she was able to disclose this information to the commissioners. Again, it is to their credit that these gentlemen expressed a concerned interest in the old tree's preservation. As to the tree's ultimate future prospects, only time will tell.

Possible Preservation

Unfortunately, although trees of such majestic magnitude do not have state or federal laws protecting them, there is much nationwide concern by the public to save these arboreal relics of our past. At the present time, the welfare of Feeding Hills' willow tree is in a

state of limbo.

Obviously, money is required if the tree is to be properly cabled and protected for future generations to admire. The tree's value and worth to the citizens of our town and village goes without saying, however, words are not sufficient enough to save the landmark.

As to its local worth there is little question. The problem rests in the fact that the tree must be properly cabled and carefully scrutinized on a daily basis if it does not warrant preservation.

To some financial extent the tree will be preserved, provided local authorities will set the pace for its existence and preservation! The County Commissioners are more than willing to assist this undertaking. The rest, apparently, is up to the citizens of Agawam/Feeding Hills. Time is of importance!

A recent article in the Springfield Daily News, dated November 15th, and entitled: "Farmhouse Will Go, Commission Votes to Save Old Willow Tree," there is an element of truth and positive thinking in terms of the old tree's future prospects.

The article states: "Agawam sports the largest black willow officially recorded in Massachusetts, with a circumference of 198 inches, and average limb spread of 79 feet and a height of 67 feet. The tree is believed to be about 80 years-old and healthy."

Of further interest the article also stated, "Begley (County Building supervisor) said the black willow will be protected. We're waiting for a good frost to kill the poison ivy and then we'll go in and trim it," he said.

On the basis of this most recent news, it can be assumed that the willow tree will be preserved for the moment. However, it does remain that the people of Agawam/Feeding Hills must assume some responsibility in the far-future preservation of this historic natural landmark if the tree is to remain a living proof of our personal commitment to safeguarding our local heritage.

From time to time there has been a question as to the true value of a County Commission, yet, our present County Commissioners have literally outdone themselves toward preserving a small fragment of our local history. They did indeed provide the necessary means of preserving at least some portion of our national heritage.

There are those amongst us who realize the value of preservation! In this, the County Commissioners are to be complimented.

LOCAL HISTORIANS MARILYN & DICK CURRY'S column, "in old Agawam," is a regular feature of the Advertiser News. Your comments and suggestions may be directed to them.

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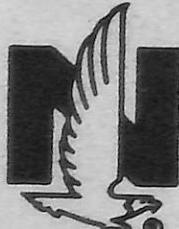
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Bonfittos Open Home To Aid Providence Children's Center

Mr. & Mrs. Louis Bonfitto opened their home at 196 Meadow Street, Agawam, on Friday evening, December 6th, to relatives, friends, and neighbors for their annual Christmas party to benefit Our Lady of Providence Children's Center in West Springfield.

The guests were served a buffet dinner and it was an evening of recollection and exchanges of Christmas greeting.

Those assisting in the arrangements were Vi LaCroix, Jennie Choinere, Rita LaForce, Rose Mezzetti, Louise Barkett, Fran Pedulla, Peggy Bonavita, Jean Trehey, Pat Niles, Vivian Benoit, Jo and Amy Lango, Betty Galetti, and Adeline DiLullo.

Gerald Malouin, president of Our Lady of Providence Home for Children, attended the party and was presented a check for \$1,902.40 by Mrs. Bonfitto.

"This will help make a happier and merrier Christmas for the Brightside families and children," said Malouin.

Everyone agreed the evening was a superb success and the Bonfittos were again thanked by Malouin for their kindness to the children again this Christmas. "You will be remembered in their prayers," Malouin told the Bonfittos.

Santa Claus Says Thanks To Mrs. Claus For Ski Tickets

Mrs. Claus says "thank you" to Santa for giving her a "Ski Privilege Card." For a \$25 contribution to the American Lung Association of Western Massachusetts, a skier receives approximately \$150 worth of downhill skiing at nine local ski areas for the 1985-1986 ski season. These areas have each generously donated one day of skiing: Berkshire East, Berkshire Snow Basin, Bousquet, Brodie, Butternut, Catamount, Jiminy Peak, Mt. Tom, and Otis Ridge.

Cards can be obtained at the Lung Association, 393 Maple Street, Springfield, or call 737-3506 for further details.

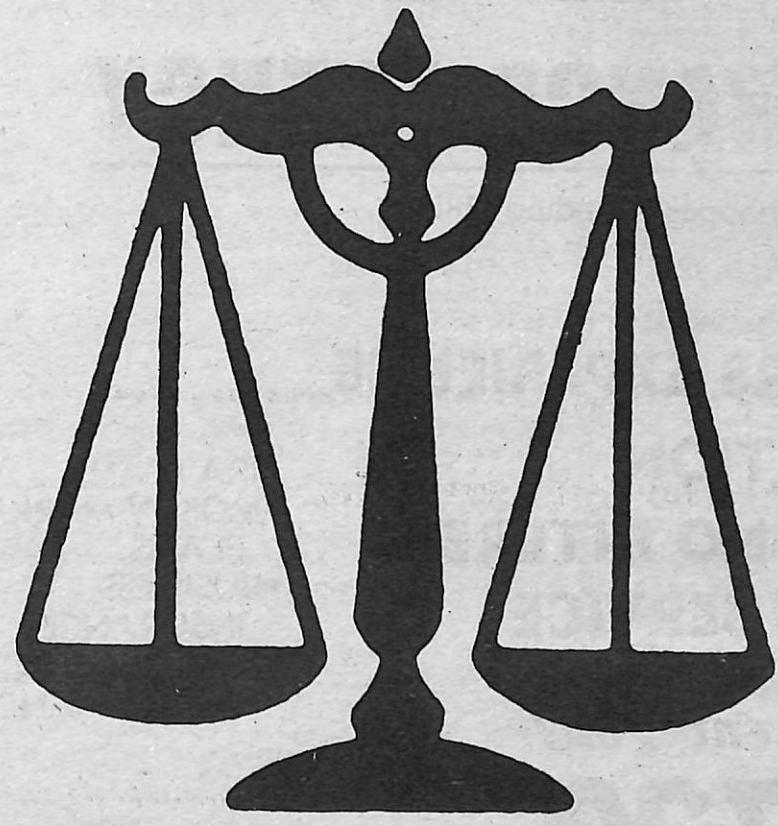


MRS. SANTA CLAUS gives her favorite guy a "Ski Privilege Card," good for many Western Mass. ski facilities.

MRS. LOUIS BONFITTO presents a check for \$1,902.40 to **Gerald Moulin**, president of Our Lady of Providence Home for Children. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Please remember that our deadline for next week's edition is Monday, December 9th, at noontime for advertising and news copy. Please be prompt.

ATTORNEY SCOTT EVANS SKOLNICK



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Magna Cum Laude
Western New England College
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Town Holiday S

by Laura B. Dug
Advertiser News Feature

The sights, sounds, and smells of Christmas abound in the shoppes and boutiques of Agawam. A recent mini-tour between Main Street and Feeding Hills Center proved a happy interlude in a busy week.

Teddy Bears are everywhere: small and cute, large and cuddly, dressed and not dressed, peeping out from Christmas wreaths and Christmas arrangements, utterly adorable in all shades of brown and even in black and white. Poinsettias, of course, are also everywhere and they are especially lovely this year, generally priced from \$3.50 up.

CRAFTLY UNIQUE, handcrafted gifts, 711 Main Street, Agawam Center, is owned by Rosemarie Juliano. True to its name, everything in the shop is handmade, mostly by local craftspeople and mostly on consignment.

Featured this Christmas is a large collection of clothes for those Cabbage Patch Dolls and Kids. There are also many of the popular hoop wall-hangings in all sizes and with a variety of designs. A few beautiful leaded glass mirrors grace the walls. The lovely silk flowers are fashioned by Rosemarie herself. Fabric photo frames are popular gift items, too.

There are many kinds of Christmas tree decorations from tiny "soft" dolls to lovely little crocheted white angels. The larger needlepoint angels are perfect for the top of the tree. Handmade Christmas wreaths to suit every taste are available; the fluffed (brushed) macrame wreaths were unusual. Refrigerator magnets seasonally decorated, and baby things, including colorful (and noiseless) mobiles, are some of the items to be found at Craftly Unique Gift Shop on Main Street.

FLORAL DESIGN, 338 Walnut Street Extension, is a newcomer to the Agawam scene, opening just last month. The special Christmas arrangements are attractively displayed and include centerpieces of varying size, many unusual wall decorations as well as wreaths, all designed by owner Doris Gallo. Mrs. Gallo specializes in traditional as well as contemporary pieces, each showing her personal creative touch which makes them unique.

A particularly elegant and unusual item is a small "Victorian Pinecone Christmas Tree," tastefully trimmed with bows of cream-colored lace. There is a fine display of "Old World Craftsmanship" in the form of varied patterns and sizes of exquisitely crocheted items made by an elderly family member, who also makes crocheted snowflake decorations for the Christmas tree.

Floral Design is a full service florist offering a fine selection of fresh flowers for all occasions, with Tele Flora wire service. For that very special holiday arrangement be sure to check out Mrs. Gallo's original creations at Floral Design in the Walnut Shopping Center.

LETALIEN JEWELERS. If one is searching for a very special gift of gold, diamonds or a Pulsar quartz watch, Letalien Jewelers, 383 Walnut Street, Agawam, is the shop to visit. They specialize in 14K gold items, bracelets, pierced earrings, rings, charms, pins, and neck chains. There are watches for every family member. Sure to please are their pearls, simulated and cultured, as well as diamond rings and earrings. There is also a fine selection of sterling silver items.

Now, through the Holiday Season, you can shop Letalien, Monday to Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Friday, 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.; and Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., for all your fine jewelry needs.

THE DOLLY SISTERS' Hallmark Store at Southgate Shopping Center, Suffield Street, is gaily decorated for Christmas. Featured gift items are their adorable "Precious Moments" figures, their famous Hallmark plaques, and a full line of cards and gift wrapping.



DOROTHY O'CONNOR just opened Dottie's Flower Shop at 808 Suffield Street, Agawam, and this is another must stop in to see during the holiday season. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.



ELENA BLAKESLEY of the Country Mouse House, corner of Suffield and Silver Streets. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.



SHARON SIERACKI likes this silk flower arrangement at **Floral Design**, a recently opened store at 338 Walnut Street Extension. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.



LETALIEN JEWELERS not only has 30 years of established tradition behind it, but also the energetic ownership of Ron Hamel. The store has elegant jewelry for perfect holiday gifts at prices you can afford. At right, Ron helps customer Wes Schutt select a new watch. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.



MARIA BURROWS displays the great selection of stuffed animals at the Dolly Sisters Card and Gift Shop. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Shopping Trip

B. Dugan
Feature Writer

New this year is their line of *Crowning Glory* porcelain items, both useful and decorative, with something for everyone. "Sandicraft" pets, hand-crafted dogs and cats, are so natural they are irresistible.

The Dolly Sisters has a great assortment of stocking stuffers and a complete line of Russell Stover candies. Of course, there are dolls at Dolly Sisters, also wind chimes, wooden ware, and lots of candles. And, if you are searching for a Fox Paw ice scraper mitt, you'll find one at Dolly Sisters, adjacent to Agawam's Big Y.

THE COUNTRY MOUSE HOUSE, corner of Suffield and Silver Streets, has just opened a third "house" for a year-round Christmas Shoppe. Owner Gwen Magovern has transformed a former barn/garage into a charming boutique. It features an authentic antique sleigh, full of teddy bears (what else in 1985?). The sleigh was the inspiration for the special Christmas Shoppe which was designed around it.

The Mouse House features handmade articles, many of them made by local or nearby craftsmen. About half are on consignment. Their unusual handmade Christmas Tree Skirts are reversible (plaid and solid red), and there are very attractive fireplace socks to match.

LONGMEADOW FLOWERS, INC., Sandra Kinsley, manager, now has its Agawam store in the new Community Shops at Feeding Hills Center. It is spacious with a wide variety of Christmas arrangements, wreaths, unusual tree ornaments of crystal, and clear, frosted, and iridescent glass, as well as many gift items.

The shop features gourmet foods for gift-giving, imported jams, jellies, cookies, and real Irish Whiskey Cakes. Crabtree and Evelyn soaps are popular. There are many lovely brass items - some of them real conversation pieces.

Small teddy bears are featured as the ornaments in wreaths and Christmas arrangements, plus a fine assortment of "Bears by Gund" and Avanti stuffed animals. Trees decorated with strings of (artificial) popcorn and (wooden) cranberries provide a bit of nostalgia. Plants for Christmas giving, both the usual and the unusual, enjoy their own special section of the shop.

FEEDING HILLS FLORIST, at the Crossroad Shoppes, 8 Southwick Street, Feeding Hills Center, is owned by Guilah "Pat" Cole who purchased the business last May.

A new venture for Mrs. Cole, it is a goal realized where she can make use of her creative talents in floral design. She says the long hours spent in the shop are never tedious for her.

A Christmas feature this year are centerpieces of flocked fresh greens, with candles, priced at \$12.50. They will last all through the season. Silk flowers are very popular now and Pat has a variety to offer. Also, silk wreaths are quite a hot item.

Her partridge-berry bowls are most attractive, in several sizes and in different shaped containers. They are made by a local craftsman. There are many different and unusual tree decorations, including pretty little lace-bonneted doll heads with porcelain faces and real fur for hair, made by a lady in Vermont.

The candy shop at Feeding Hills Florist occupies a corner of the shop with rows and rows of jars of candies. Included are about 20 flavors of a special kind of small jelly bean.

All these features are in addition to the regular floral business of fresh cut flowers and arrangements, available for any occasion. See Feeding Hills Florist: a glimpse of Fairyland in Christmas garb.

The Agawam Advertiser News



OVER AT LONGMEADOW FLOWERS in the New Community Shops, manager Sandra Kinsley is quite proud of the store's beautiful fireplace display (left) and large Christmas Tree (right). Advertiser News photos by Jack Devine.

Advertiser News Photos By JACK DEVINE



THE CHRISTMAS SHOPPE at Feeding Hills Florist is a must-see for those wishing to decorate their home with a variety of beautiful holiday items, as shown by owner and operator Pat Cole (left) and assistant Rose Gasteyer (right). Advertiser News photos by Jack Devine.



's Flower and Gift
is another store you
Advertiser News photo by

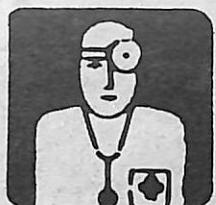
Santa Claus Visits Heritage Hall Bazaar



LAURA FITZELL and ELAINE ROLANDINI express interest in a handmade snowman which was on sale at the recent Christmas Bazaar at Heritage Hall Nursing Home West. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.



AT A RECENT CHRISTMAS BAZAAR held by Heritage Hall Nursing Home West, Santa Claus was able to hear the many good deeds during 1985 of Melissa Sprandel and Kay Babcock. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.



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HAPPY HOLIDAYS

News, Activities At The Ag. Senior Center

Peg Bellano was born in the Province of Sandria, Italy. As a young girl, she came to the United States and first settled in Ludlow 60 years ago with her parents.

After five years, the family moved to North Agawam. Peg was educated in the Agawam School System. Soon after her graduation from high school she married Al Bellano. Their 50 years of marriage were recently celebrated at Monte Marie with a Mass by the Most Reverend Bishops Joseph Maguire and Leo O'Neill.

Peg & Al live in the North Agawam section of town. They have one daughter, Barbara, and two grandchildren, Brian and Sharon, both in college. They are members of St. Anthony's Church.

After spending 32 years as an employee and floor lady for Sickles, Peg decided to retire and enjoy life. She is involved in the cheese program and serves as a substitute at Saturday Night Bingo. She is a member of the Activities Committee at the center, helping with all the special events it sponsors. These include Christmas and Valentine parties and Mother's and Father's Day luncheons. You will find Peg busy doing her bit. She is also a member of Agawam Golden Age Chapter 1.

When asked why she works so hard in so many volunteer programs, she replied, "I enjoy being with the senior citizens and helping wherever I can. I like playing cards, bingo, and all the good times we have here. Most of all, I like being with so many nice people at the center."

The Tuesday Walkers

A walking group which started last May 7th with 10 people ended with six regulars. They have had a productive summer and fall. The group of six, from May to October, have averaged 163 miles each. The rest of the walkers have tucked an average of 93-98 miles under their belts.

Congratulations to Ann Landers, Alma Bassett, Rose Duquette, Lee Foster, Nellie Wright, Alice Stepat, Elmira DeDanato, Mary Rachelle, Ruth Vanderluk, Barbara Kimbal, and Viola Smith, leader.

The miles walked were in the area of the Senior Center, ranging from River Road to Corey Apartments. Walks will resume in the spring.

Friday, December 13th, 2:30 to 3:30 p.m.: State Auditor John Finnegan, accompanied by Field Representative Edward A. Caba, will be at the Senior Center to discuss state finances and his responsibilities as State Auditor. The public, as well as senior citizens are invited to attend.

Another 100 pounds of non-perishable food has been delivered to the Open Pantry from the box in the Senior Center lobby. A big "thank you" to all who have been contributing; the box is now ready to be refilled. The need continues.

The library at the center has just received a new group of books from the Agawam Public Library, a number of them in large print. They may be borrowed on Monday or Friday mornings between 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., when the librarian is on duty. The books on loan from the Agawam Library have to be checked out.

January 9th, 1:00 to 4:30 p.m.: at the Senior Center. Council on Aging offers a free screening test for hearing problems, plus a talk (with slides) by a hearing aid specialist from

SEE SENIOR CENTER -
PAGE 16....

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St. Anthony's Holds Dinner For Senior Citizens



ENJOYING THE ZITI AND MEATBALL DINNER with St. Anthony's Pastor Father Joseph Fellin are senior citizens Joseph & Lucy Archetti. Both said the meal was delicious. Father Fellin is waiting for his and appears to be ready to snatch one of Mrs. Archetti's meatballs. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.



CLAIMING HE IS STILL "37" years-old, St. Anthony's of Padua Pastor Father Joseph Fellin is pictured with 82 year-old Joseph Archetti and 94 year-old Ernestine Zilli. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.



KITCHEN HELPERS JOAN BONNELLO and EVA NASCEMBENI donated their time to help-out at the dinner for senior citizens held at St. Anthony's of Padua last week. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Sunday, December 15th
American Field Service Xmas Party
Captain Charles Leonard House
6:30 p.m.

Monday, December 16th
Parents Advisory Council
Junior High School
7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, December 17th
Financial Aid Night
Agawam High School
7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, December 17th
Winter Concert
Agawam High School
7:30 p.m.

Saturday, December 21st
Christmas Story Hour
Agawam Public Library
10:00 to 11:00 a.m.



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**MONEY
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by Charles Alvanos
IDS-American Exp.
Financial Planner

**Tax Strategies: Act Early To Ease The Bite**

It may seem too early to begin thinking about next April's tax return, but developing tax reduction strategies now may save you an unwelcome bite later.

Although President Reagan's proposals remain uncertain, you can still make some traditional year-end tax saving moves and come out ahead. Mike Weiner, director, tax planning and research for IDS Financial Services, advocates several key strategies that every taxpayer should consider before December 31st, 1985.

This year — more than ever — you should accelerate deductions and defer income," advises Weiner. According to the President's plan, all tax rates would be lowered to three brackets: 15 percent, 25 percent, and 35 percent, effective July 1st, 1986. The key is to accelerate deductions in 1985, when they are still allowable and worth more, and postpone income until 1986, when rates would be lower.

"One way to defer income would be to defer a work-related bonus," explains Weiner. "Arrange with your employer to hold your bonus until 1986. Under this deferred compensation plan, the bonus would be taxable in 1986 at the lower rate."

"Make all payments for state and local taxes by December 31st, 1985," suggests Weiner. These include state and local income taxes, and real estate taxes. These payments would no longer be deductible, beginning in 1986, under the President's proposal.

If you're shopping the showrooms for a new car (or any other big ticket purchase), Weiner recommends buying this year so you can deduct the sales tax. If President Reagan's plan passes as proposed, general sales tax will not be deductible.

Increase your charitable deductions in 1985, especially gifts of appreciated capital gain property," says Weiner. "That way, the appreciation will not be taxed to you, and you'll be able to deduct the full fair market value of the appreciated property that you contributed." For appreciated assets donated in 1986, paper gains would be counted in the base used to figure whether the donor owes an alternative minimum tax.

If you're considering such limited partnership investments as real estate or oil and gas, purchase them this year rather than next year," Weiner advises.

"Next year, the depreciation period may be lengthened from 18 to 28 years. Capital gains on any buildings purchased may be treated as ordinary income, thereby reducing the tax benefits of such investments." Also, a new "at risk" rule may prevent real estate investors from claiming tax losses greater than the amount of money they're risking — a new wrinkle in the real estate investment market.

If you're in the 45 percent tax bracket (married, filing jointly), defer capital gains until 1986," the tax expert suggests. "Right now, the capital gains exclusion is 60 percent, which means you pay tax on 40 percent of the gain. At the maximum tax rate of 50 percent, you pay a 20 percent tax on this income.

If the President's proposal goes through unaltered, you may exclude 50 percent of capital gains next year. But the tax on the gains actually declines when the lower exclusion is combined with the lower top rate of 35 percent that President Reagan is promoting. This reduces the maximum tax on capital gains to 17.5 percent," Weiner explains.

Another smart tax-savings move for 1985: "Refinance the mortgage on your principal residence, and use that money to pay off the loan on a second home or vacation residence," says Weiner.

"Since the interest expense on second homes may be disallowed next year (if it exceeds \$5,000 plus net investment income), this strategy would assure you of optimum tax treatment on a second residence," he said.

While it's unlikely that the President's proposals will pass as initially submitted, many financial professionals agree that some type of tax reform will be enacted in 1986. The strategies we've discussed here still will make sense — even if tax reform does not occur. But tread lightly.

Don't center all your tax strategies around the President's proposals. Watch the headlines of your local paper to keep up with current developments. And always consult a tax professional before making any major tax decision.

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FIRE-WISE

by Rusty Jenks
Agawam Fire Chief

Wood You Please Burn Safely?

Keep the home fires burning safely this winter. The Agawam Fire Department reminds you that fireplaces and wood burning devices can be efficient ways to heat, but owners must know how to burn wood safely.

Before investing in a wood burning system, consider SAFETY, economics, ease and aesthetics. No system is fire proof. Improper installation causes major fire problems. Have your fireplace or wood burning device installed by a professional and have it inspected by the fire department before using. Although proper installation will help to prevent fires, be prepared to handle one.

Know the signs of a chimney fire...a loud roar, sucking sounds and shaking pipes. Make sure everyone knows what to do. Practice fire drills and learn how to use a fire extinguisher. If you think you have a chimney fire, call the fire department immediately. Cut off the fire's air supply by closing any intake vents in the firebox. Close the damper. Get everyone out of the house.

Keep tight-fitting screens or glass doors in front of fireplaces to prevent sparks from flying out. Keep papers and furniture away from the front of fireplaces. To prevent small children from suffering burns from falling into wood burning stoves, purchase retaining screens made for that purpose. Don't leave children in the room while a fire is burning.

Dispose of ashes by placing them in metal containers. Do not put in paper bags or cardboard boxes. Ashes can retain enough heat to start a fire for several days. Wet ashes to make sure they are cold.

Cub Scout Pack 77 Holds Second Annual Bake-Off

Cub Scout Pack 77 of St. John's Church held their Second Annual Father And Son Bake Off, November 26th, at the Parish Center.

Many beautiful cakes were brought in by proud scouts and their dads. Cakes were judged by den leader Diane Gagnon and former den leader Sue Hanscom.

First place was awarded to Matthew Jutras with second and third going to Alan Belniak and Michael McCormick.

After the judging, the cakes were auctioned off to the highest bidder by Webelo leader Bob Trembley.

Congratulations go to the pack's top sellers of the "Jeanine Fundraiser." First place goes to Chris Muckus, with second and third to Ray Rossi and Brian Anderson. Everyone at Pack 77 would like to thank all the scouts for a job well done.

Webelo leader Bob Trembley of Den 1 awarded his boys with the scientist and athletic pin, and Webelo assistant leader Michael McKenna of Den 2 awarded his boys the forester pin.

The Scout Christmas Party will be held on Tuesday, December 17th, at the Parish Center at 7:00 p.m. All the scouts, den leaders, and committee members wish everyone a safe and happy holiday season.

Sacred Heart Preschoolers To Hold Family Xmas Eve

Sacred Heart Church preschoolers plan a family Christmas celebration which will be held on Christmas Eve at the 4:00 p.m. Mass. The children will dramatize the story of Christmas while the congregation will be led in song by the children's choir.

All families are invited to attend this joyful celebration of Jesus' birth.

The program is under the direction of Mary Ann Page, Bill & Laura St. George, and Alma Benton.

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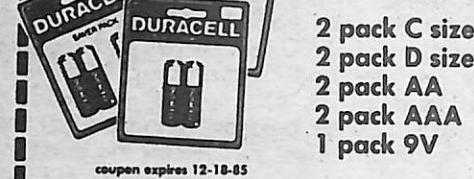


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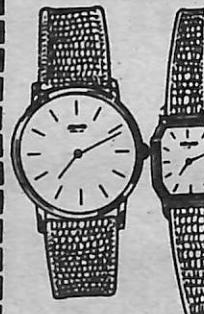
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Agawam looks to US
For hometown news

Donations Sought For Mrs. Claus' Kitchen

Mrs. Santa Claus, whose country kitchen is set up annually at the Mall at Center Square in Downtown Springfield, is once again asking her visitors to donate canned goods to fill her cupboards.

The canned goods will be distributed to the needy for the holidays by the Open Pantry.

Coordinated by Center Square, the Downtown Ministry, and Open Pantry, the canned goods collection began in 1984 with an initial donation from L'Amitie. Thousands of donations from school children and the general public were successful in filling Mrs. Claus' specially built pantry three times during the holiday season.

This year, on the Friday following the Giant Balloon Parade, the country kitchen where Mrs. Claus meets with children opened once again, and Mrs. Claus began her annual tradition of passing out chocolate chip cookies.

On Tuesday, December 3rd, her canned goods collection was officially kicked off with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at Center Square by Downtown Ministry, Center Square, and Open Pantry officials.

Mrs. Claus' Kitchen is a traditional part of Downtown's Annual Christmas Trail. The trail includes a train ride on Baystate West's mezzanine level, a visit with Santa Claus in Center Court of Baystate West, a trip to the Talking Christmas Tree on Steiger's third floor, and a visit with Mrs. Claus.

Mrs. Claus is being assisted this year by "elves" from the Exit 7 Players, a local theater group.

Science Museum Presents Halley's Comet Session

On the evenings of December 13th and 14th, the Science Museum will conduct outdoor Halley's Comet observation sessions. The first session in November drew a crowd of over 60 people and, although dim, the comet was sighted.

Observers are invited to meet at the museum at 7:00 p.m., where maps and directions to a choice viewing spot will be distributed. You will be out in the field until approximately 9:00 p.m.

To prepare for this event, dress very warmly and bring binoculars and a flashlight with red cellophane covering the lighted end. The comet will probably not yet be visible to the unaided eye, so binoculars are especially important. The museum will provide a telescope as well.

Robert Staron, curator of physical science at the museum, will be the group leader. He will provide star maps indicating the comet's location and help people spot it in the sky. Other celestial wonders which will be visible are Jupiter, Pleiades, the Great Nebula in Orion, the Andromeda Galaxy, and other constellations.

If it is overcast, the sessions will be cancelled. Please call the museum before 5:00 p.m., if you are in doubt. The sessions are free, and children must be accompanied by an adult.

Future sessions will be held on January 10th and 11th. For further information, please call the museum, 733-1194.

Best Local News

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Be Sure To "Winterize" Your Pets!!!

by K. H. Schulte, V.M.D.
201 Canal Road, Suffield

The clocks have fallen back, frost has ended gardening, and it's time to winterize cars, idle them before driving, haul in wood, and salt icy driveways. It's also time to make these activities pet proof.

During cold weather pets need more food if they remain outdoors any length of time. Anywhere from 20 to 40 percent more food is necessary, depending on their time outside and the temperature — just to maintain body heat. A proper well-balanced diet is especially essential at this time.

Dry, Insulated Bedding

Provide a dry, insulated and well-bedded house if your pooch is going to live outdoors and a steady source of ice-free clean water. This may necessitate several servings of tepid water a day to keep it fluid on very cold days. Or even better, a cellar or garage on those days. Cedar shavings make good bedding since they also repel fleas.

If the bedding doesn't stay in the dog domicile, nailing some outdoor carpeting will. Make sure the house floor is several inches off the ground so it stays dry. Most pets can live in such digs until temperatures get below zero and Eskimo-types even then. For others that venture out briefly and are short-haired, a sweater or coat is sufficient.

Grooming, at least weekly keeps the coat mat-free and healthier. Always check paws if they've been out in the mud, snow, or ice, especially if the latter has been salted. Clumps catch between the toes and may cause foot problems. Salt can irritate the webbing and the licker as well.

Exercise for both cats and dogs is essential in winter. So, bundle up and take the kitty or canine for a walk or jog. Cats really shouldn't be left out overnight or in severe weather conditions, although some of the great hunters seem to thrive on it and develop beaver-coats. Beware of their habit of nesting on warm auto engines (with disaster when the fan starts). Honk the horn, bang on the hood, slam the car door to dislodge a kitty snoozing in an amputative position before you start the car.

When winterizing your vehicle, be especially careful not to spill any antifreeze. It's sweet and only a teaspoonful can be fatal to a cat or small dog. Ingestion is an emergency — once the antifreeze gets to the kidneys and crystallizes, it's too late. So, if your pet has lapped any get him/her in for veterinary attention immediately.

The Indoor Pet

A word about the other extreme — the indoor dog or cat that likes to lie by the fireplace, radiator or in front of a heat duct. These contribute to a dry skin and coat, and a dry one is an itchy one. Being outside at least some of the winter time is good for all pets — even crew-cut, skinny ones. Pick the nicer days.

Besides, the exercise, fresh air and sunshine are healthy factors so don't allow indoor hibernating. Enjoy the cooler weather with your pet but avoid the season's hazards. And remember — stay on heartworm preventative until December 31st and have a Merry Christmas, but no turkey bones for your pet.

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Tis' The Season For Gift-Giving:

by Mildred Talmadge - Advertiser News Feature Writer

PUBLISHER'S NOTE: Mildred Talmadge is a feature writer for the *Southwick-Suffield Advertiser News* and we thought this article, which appeared in our Saturday, December 7th edition, was most fitting for Agawam as well.

This is that season of the year when we carry out the custom established by the Magi who brought gifts to the Christ Child. Does our gift-giving bear the same connotation of love that guided the worshippers to Bethlehem at the beginning of the Christmas era?

For us, it is usually the hassle of scurrying about shopping. It is interesting to note that one-half of the yearly retail sales come at this time. There was a recent report that the day after Thanksgiving was dubbed "Black Friday." It seems that many retail stores came out of the "red" that day.

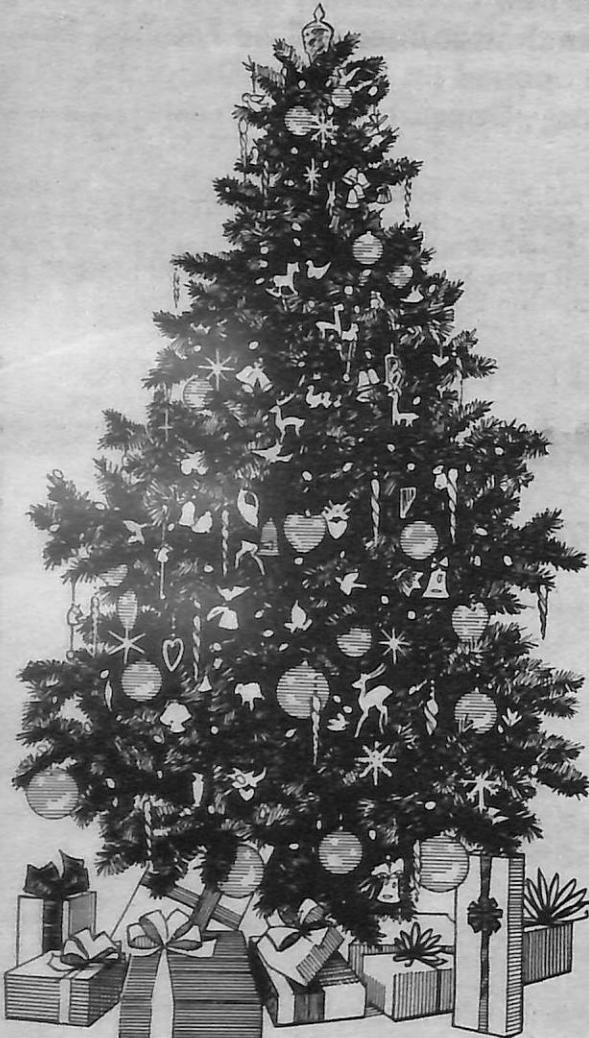
As to our motives, there comes a time when we should examine our gift-giving. I've heard complaints so many times regarding the prolonged exchange of gifts between families who are out of touch; family numbers have expanded and the children have grown. (Knowledge of sizes and interests are so remote that it requires a clairvoyant to know what to send).

Wise To Call A Halt

When it has reached this impasse, it is wise to agree to call a halt. Individual families will be happy to direct that money in the direction of their own growing offspring. A friendly Christmas letter with photographs will suffice to catch each other up on the news of the year.

But, there still is a shopping list.

The one who has everything is probably the hardest. The most absurd, expensive suggestions fill the catalogs! However, some unique item, not necessarily expensive, is often appreciated. Here is when early-in-



the-year shopping can help. If you see it, grab it.

There are times when the "purchased-way-ahead-of-time" gifts palls when wrapping time comes. Truly, last minute shopping isn't all that bad. The stores stock special items for this season so you find things you never would have seen earlier on.

Joke gifts have a place, especially if they have a significance. When my son was young, we went to our summer camp for his spring vacation. A girlfriend of mine went with us.

They caught a mouse which I wanted no part of, but those meanies put that dead mouse in my bedroom slippers so that when I slid out of bed in the morning I felt a soft lump in the toe, and when I pulled it out, oh my! They were highly amused!

Every Christmas thereafter, I have received a mouse from my friend. I have stuffed ones, trinkets, jewelry, pictures — mice, and more mice. It tickles my son when I open one each year.

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BUFFET STYLE

Of course children comprise the biggest group receiving gifts, and truly they are the hardest to buy for. It is difficult to quell the tendency to select something they aren't ready for. I always loved the story of a little boy who received an electric train. Later in the morning, he was missing. He was found in the kitchen helping with the maneuvering of pots and pans. Daddy was under the tree playing with the train.

I witnessed an eight-year-old girl who received a vanity which interested her not at all, but I saw elation on my 15 year-old niece when she found hers beside the tree.

"Giving of oneself" is never out of line. A craft item, a knitted garment, and homemade food are usually appreciated by people who don't practice these talents themselves.

I have a dear relative with whom I do not exchange gifts at Christmas, but more than once during the year we each see something that is especially appropriate and give them then. She calls them "I love you gifts."

Do these gifts, especially at Christmas, have that meaning as the love that brought the Magi to the Christ Child?

Financial Aid Night At Agawam High School

The Guidance Department at Agawam High School will host a financial aid night for the parents of seniors who are planning to further their education.

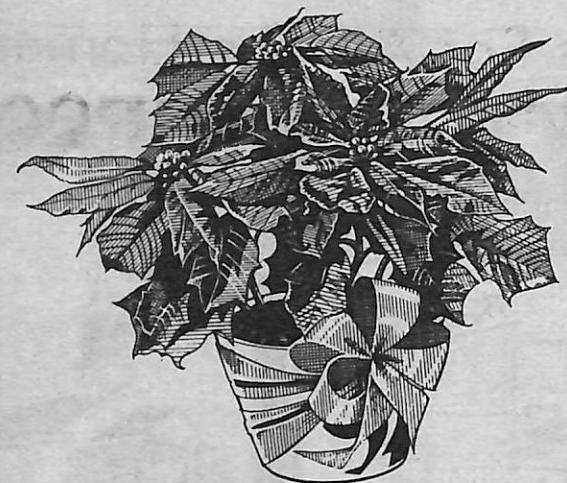
The guest speaker will be Dr. Lee Sirois, director of Financial Aid at American International College. Sirois will explain the Financial Aid Form (FAF) in detail. The FAF must be filed by every student if he/she desires financial aid from any institution of higher learning.

Since financial aid forms cannot be sent until after January 1st, 1986, the financial aid night will be held on Tuesday, December 17th, at 7:00 p.m., in the high school cafeteria. The guidance department will supply the FAFs, along with other important financial aid material. This program is a must for the parents of college bound students.

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FRESH CUT... Christmas Trees

And Balsam Wreaths



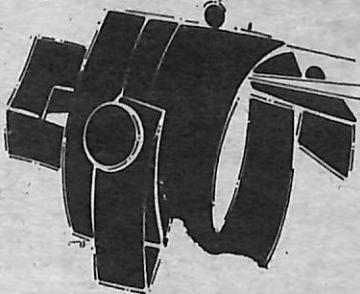
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SPOTLIGHT ON BUSINESS

Community Savings Moves Branch To Community Shops

Community Savings Bank announces the grand opening of their new Feeding Hills, Agawam branch office, on December 11th. In continuing their 15-year commitment to serving the people of Feeding Hills and Agawam, Community Bank has moved from 1395 Springfield Street, down the road to a newer, upgraded facility at 1325 Springfield Street in the exciting and new Community Shops Plaza.

The new office is professionally staffed with more convenient hours to better serve customers, including a drive-up window, which is available for quick transactions.

"We are always striving to increase our service to the communities we serve. Our increased investment in the new Feeding Hills branch illustrates that commitment," comments Roy A. Scott, president of Community Savings Bank.

To celebrate Community's new location, a grand-prize drawing will take place December 20th. Everyone is welcome to see the new bank facility and enter the contest anytime between December 11th and December 20th.

From the entries, a grand prize of a Peter Pan Bus tour to the destination of the winner's choice or \$500 in American Express Traveler's Checks will be awarded, as well as ten second-place prizes of \$50 in traveler's checks. (Details of the drawing are available at the bank).

To serve you at the Feeding Hills, Agawam office are: Anthony Grimaldi, assistant treasurer of Community and branch manager of Feeding Hills; head teller Caron Brooks and tellers Maria Pagan and Linda McDonald, and part-time teller Barbara Corgan.



COMMUNITY SAVINGS BANK has moved its branch across from Feeding Hills Pharmacy to the corner building of the new Community Shops in Feeding Hills Center, just down the street. The branch manager will be Feeding Hills resident Anthony Grimaldi. The new office opened on Monday, December 9th. The ribbon-cutting ceremony was Wednesday, December 11th. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

The new branch hours for the Feeding Hills, Agawam office are: Monday: Lobby, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; Drive-Up, 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Tuesday: Lobby, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; Drive-Up, 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; Wednesday: Lobby, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; Drive-

Up, 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.; Thursday: Lobby, 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.; Drive-Up, 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.; Friday: Lobby, 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.; Drive-Up, 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.; Saturday: Lobby, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.; Drive-Up, 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

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Call Firefighters Selling Christmas Trees



THE AGAWAM CALL FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION is holding its sale of Christmas trees on Suffield Street, just beyond the Walnut Street Extension exit, heading south down Suffield Street. Call fireman George Pajak is pictured above. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

SAVE-A-LIFE Bloodmobile In Windsor

Windsor Locks: The Annual Windsor Save-A-Life Bloodmobile will be held on Monday, December 23rd, at the Trinity Methodist Church, Park Avenue, Windsor. The bloodmobile will be open from noon until 5:00 p.m.

Many lives are saved or sustained each year from blood donations. All of Connecticut's 40 hospitals depend solely on donations made through the Red Cross blood program.

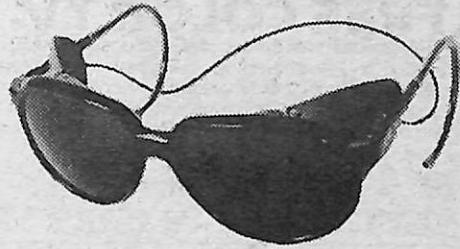
Anyone in good health, between the ages of 17 and

66 years-old, and weighing more than 110 pounds, may be eligible to donate. Donors between the ages of 66 and 79 may give blood if a Red Cross Authorization Letter is presented at the blood drive.

To obtain approval, donors in this age group should submit written certification of their good health from their physician to a Red Cross Blood Services physician. First-time donors, and those 75-years or older, will not be eligible to give.

Walk-ins are welcome, however appointments can be made by calling 627-5981.

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Granville Quilt Guild To Hold Annual Party

The Annual Christmas Party of the Granville Quilt and Needlework Guild will be held on Tuesday, December 17th, at the Federated Church, Route 189, Granville. Registration begins at 6:30 p.m.

A hot buffet dinner will be catered by Valenti's Restaurant of Agawam at 7:00 p.m. Dinner reservations must be made before December 10th with Verna Sadowski, 568-5127, or Eleanor Tonelli, 732-1965. There is no charge for Guild members. There will be a \$6 charge per dinner guest.

There will be a gift exchange among members and door prizes.

A handmade ornament contest will be held. Two categories will be judged: tree ornaments and large decorations. Contestants will be grouped as instructors or non-instructors for the judging.

Santa Claus Set To Arrive In Agawam

Santa will arrive by helicopter on Saturday, December 21st. He will land at Wade Park (off Franklin Street, which runs between Springfield and Mill Streets) at about 1:00 p.m., and stay until 4:00 p.m.

Santa's elves (Agawam High cheerleaders) will be assisting Santa. Pictures of your child with Santa will be available at a minimal charge.

Santa hopes to see all the little girls and boys of Agawam who have been good this year!

Agawam Hi-Lighters Plan December 13th Dance

The Agawam Hi-Lighters Square Dance Club will hold a dance on Friday, December 13th, at Valley Community Church, South Westfield Street, Feeding Hills, at 8:00 p.m.

Bob Turnbull will be the caller and Linn Case will cue the rounds. There will be a workshop at 7:30 p.m.

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Sacred Heart Christmas Bazaar



SACRED HEART CHURCH in Feeding Hills held its Annual Christmas Bazaar last weekend, Friday and Saturday, December 6th and 7th. Displaying handmade pillows are Mary Ladner and Lee Dion. (SEE NEXT WEEK'S EDITION FOR MORE S.H. BAZAAR PHOTOS). Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Catholic Women's Donation



THE AGAWAM CATHOLIC WOMEN'S CLUB has donated \$1,000 to the Open Pantry of Springfield. This money will be used to renovate the new facility of the "Loaves and Fishes" in Springfield, a soup kitchen for the needy. Making the presentation to Sister Mary Peter, director of the Springfield program (center) are Catholic Women Angela Beaudry (left) and Lil Doyle.

Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

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OTHER CHRISTMAS EVENTS

Dec. 18 - Christian Education Program - 7:00 P.M.

Dec. 22 - Youth Choir Musical Presentation - 7:00 P.M.

Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve Candlelight Communion Service - 7:00 P.M.



Schools



THE ENTIRE STAFF OF THE AGAWAM HIGH Mirror pictured with advisor Dorothy Martin (first row, far left). The award-winning school newspaper once again lived up to its reputation at the recent competition at Columbia University and Holyoke Community College.



PROUDLY DISPLAYING TROPHIES which were awarded to the Agawam High Mirror by Columbia University and Holyoke Community College are staff members, from left - Mike Jemiolo and Jolece Orsucci, co-editors; Cathy Landry, music and sports editor; Lisa Ziegert, manager; and Chris Noll, news editor. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Middle School Schedules Holiday Dance Dec. 20th

The Agawam Middle School will hold a holiday dance on Friday, December 20th, from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m., in the school's cafeteria.

Tickets are \$1 each and are available at the school. No tickets will be sold at the door.

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AHS Mirror Staff Wins 1st Place Honors At Columbia Univ.

by Alexis Ferioli
School Department Editor

Christmas is not the only reason for high spirits and celebration at Agawam High School.

The 13-member AHS Mirror staff was recently notified that they had won first place honors in Columbia University's Annual Columbia Press Association Forum.

Submitted last June, the *Mirror* was awarded 914 points out of 1,000 for their 1984-85 publication. This figure, however, was a scant nine points short of medalist attainment.

Advisor Dorothy Martin points out that the *Mirror* also won two All Columbian Awards for format and content.

She explains that winning the awards is a very prestigious honor, especially since Columbia receives 1,000 entries each year nationwide.

Moreover, the *Mirror* competes against schools whose publication budget is approximately \$6,000 to \$7,000.

In comparison, the *Mirror*'s budget is \$3,800 with supplemental monies derived from advertisement sales.

Adding to the staff's jubilation was notification by Holyoke Community College that the *Mirror* won three awards at their Annual Scholastic Press Forum on November 22nd. These included best feature, best all-around newspaper, and best news story.

Mrs. Martin notes that these awards were presented for both the 1984-85 and 1986-87 publications.

According to her, AHS won the most and biggest of all the awards presented at the forum. She especially credits current co-editor Mike Jemiolo for his winning news story concerning the past teacher contract dispute and last year's co-editors-in-chief, Jen Powell and Jen Trehey, for their feature, "Education At Agawam High Earns A 'B'."

Mrs. Martin states that she is proud of the *Mirror* staff and was not surprised to learn that the paper won six awards. However, she says the staff is disappointed that Columbia did not award them the coveted medal of excellence.

"This is the first time that we've come so close to becoming medalists. I think the town should be proud of its students who work hard to publish a newspaper the quality of the *Mirror*. Besides benefitting the students, the *Mirror* is also a good reflection on the school and community," she remarks.

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ORIGINATED IN 1968 AS A MEANS of promoting academic excellence, the Academic Decathlon encompasses 10 areas and resembles a sporting event. Anxious to meet their opponents in battle are scholastic team members from left - Cari Brown and Martha Pataude. Absent is member Richard Vezis. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.



SPONSORED BY WORLD BOOK, INC., the Academic Decathlon is a day-long event which culminates with a six-round super quiz. Hopeful of victory at the Pittsfield event are varsity team members, from left - Abby Sheehan, Jay Fuegul, and Lisa Caron. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.



AHS SENIORS participating in the U.S. Academic Decathlon, December 14th, at Berkshire Community College include honors team members, from left - Curtis Wu, Tammy Stone, and Mike Jemiolo. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

AHS Seniors Prepare For Academic Competition

by Alexis Ferioli
School Department Editor

Nine Agawam High School seniors will participate in Olympic competition at Berkshire Community College, Saturday, December 14th.

Instead of pole vaulting, javelin throwing, broad jumping, and other sporting events, local students will compete in a different type of contest which focuses on academic achievement.

For the first time, AHS will be one of 4,000 high schools nationwide to participate in the United States Academic Decathlon.

Designed to promote and reward academic endeavors, the Academic Decathlon was developed in 1968 and became a national event in 1982.

Basically a contest, the event encompasses 10 academic areas and follows the guidelines of a sporting event.

AHS decathlon coordinator Lawrence O'Brien points out that the contest is sponsored by World Book, Inc. nationally, and General Electric Company locally.

He explains that each school selects three teams comprised of two A students, two B students, and two C students. Each team is also allowed one alternate member.

Participate In 10 Events

All contestants must participate in all 10 events. Written multiple choice tests encompass economics, language, literature, fine arts, mathematics, science, and history.

In addition to essay writing, a three-minute impromptu speech and an interview are mandatory.

O'Brien reports that the day-long event culminates with a super quiz consisting of six rounds of questions and answers.

He notes that although study guides are provided, each state is responsible for developing its own speech, essay, and interview topics.

O'Brien relates that he decided to involve local students in this year's contest because it is an excellent opportunity for them to compete in a highly-visible, spectator-oriented activity of a non-athletic nature.

He cites that schools in Eastern Mass. have participated in the national event for the past two years. Approximately 40 schools from the Boston area compete against one another with 13 advancing to the state playoffs on February 8th.

Agawam will be one of 13 schools from Western Mass. vying for three playoff positions.

SEE ACADEMIC COMPETITION Page 27...

Reserve The Birthday Of Christ The Lord, Wednesday, December 25th



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Enrollment Study Comm. Reactivated - Bruno

by Alexis Ferioli
School Department Editor

Superintendent of Schools James V. Bruno, Jr., today announced that the Enrollment Study Committee has been reactivated due to the decline in enrollment at the elementary level.

Bruno pointed out that the committee is comprised of 30 administrators, parents, teachers, and townsfolk who work closely with the town census department in developing projections for a five year period.

As a result of the committee's report, major changes will occur at both the middle and junior high schools within the next three years.

Charest explained that as tentatively proposed, the middle school, which currently houses sixth and seventh grade students, will become an upper elementary school instructing fifth and sixth graders by September 1987.

Also, for that one year, the junior high will house seventh, eighth, and ninth grades.

Four Year High School

Then, in September 1988, the senior high will revert to a four year high school with the addition of ninth grade, while the junior high will encompass only seventh and eighth grades.

Both administrators are confident that the three year transition period will be a smooth one.

"We've arrived at a point where our elementary schools are over-crowded while there is abundant room in our secondary schools. Therefore, the proposed transitions will ease the problem in a manner which should benefit students most," states Bruno.

Christmas Story Hour At Agawam Library

The Agawam Public Library will offer a Christmas story hour for children aged 4 and up on Saturday, December 21st, from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Program will feature seasonal filmstrips, stories, and activities. To register, call the library, 789-1550.

Best Hometown News

Laughing Brook To Host Twas' The Day After Xmas

Massachusetts Audubon Society's Laughing Brook Education Center in Hampden will be offering a special series of programs entitled, 'Twas the Day After Christmas, to take place Thursday to Saturday, December 26th, 27th, and 28th.

It's the day after Christmas. The presents are opened. Now what? Come to Laughing Brook. Join us either for a few hours or all day. Come out on all three days or just on the one which interests you most. Here's the schedule:

11:00 a.m.: LIVE ANIMAL PROGRAM. Meet one of Laughing Brook's resident animals. Each day you will learn about a different animal. All ages.

1:00 p.m.: IT'S MOVIE-TIME! We will show a new film each day guaranteed to delight young audiences. All ages.

1:30 to 3:30 p.m.: Investigate a different part of the winter environment each day through indoor and outdoor activities. Wear warm boots or shoes and lots of layers of clothing. Bring a bag lunch if you plan to stay all day — we will provide a warm beverage. Grades first through fourth.

The 11:00 a.m., Live Animal Program and the 1:00 p.m. movie of 'Twas the Day After Christmas are free with regular sanctuary admission with no pre-registration required. Pre-registration is required for the 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. program and there is a fee. For more information, call Laughing Brook at 566-8034.

ACADEMIC COMPETITION - From Page 26

Winners of the state playoffs will go on to compete in the national event on April 3rd at Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, California.

O'Brien, an English teacher, has been meeting with team members twice a week in preparation for the upcoming competition in Pittsfield.

Confident In Reaching Playoffs

He says that he is confident the local delegation will do well and advance to the playoffs.

"Although this is our first year in the decathlon, I'm very confident our students will advance to the state playoffs. Their eagerness to learn, interest, and abilities will be assets in the state competition," he remarks.

Students comprising the honors team are Curtis Wu, Tammy Stone, and Mike Jemiolo.

Scholastic team members include Cari Brown, Martha Patnaude, and Richard Vezis.

Varsity team members are Abby Sheehan, Jay Fuegul, and Lisa Caron.

Agawam Schools' Lunch Menus

Monday, December 16th: Steamed frankfort in roll, oven baked beans, buttered green beans, mustard, relish, catsup, pineapple tidbits in syrup, milk.

Tuesday, December 17th: Tomato macaroni soup, toasted bologna and cheese sandwich in roll, mustard or mayonnaise, buttered seven minute cabbage, jello with whip topping, milk.

Wednesday, December 18th: Hamburg in roll, steamed rice, buttered mixed vegetables, mustard, relish, catsup, apple crisp, milk.

Thursday, December 19th: Apple juice, oven baked chicken nuggets, honey and mayonnaise, buttered diced carrots, wheat bread and butter, chocolate cake with butter icing, milk.

Friday, December 20th: Oven baked fish nuggets, tartar sauce or catsup, niblet corn, oven roasted potatoes, dinner roll with butter, ice cream, milk.

PAC To Meet December 16th

The Parents Advisory Council for Special Needs Children will hold their monthly meeting on December 16th, 1985, at 7:00 p.m., in the Agawam Junior High School library.

The discussion this month will center around the grant that is being applied for and setting up a series of workshops to discuss the grant funding. There will be parent discussion time at the end of the meeting.

There will be a parent training night, December 18th, from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m., in the East Longmeadow Library, Maple Street, East Longmeadow. For more information and reservations, call Rachelle Brittain, 525-6078.

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Granger School Grade 3, Room 6 Mrs. DeFilipi Christmas Stories

The Mystery At Santa's House

One day Santa Claus couldn't find his assistant elf. So he said to all his elves, "My assistant is missing!" The chief elf formed a search party, and they checked the toy room, the kitchen, and all the other rooms. But they couldn't find him so Santa Claus said they had to postpone Christmas because his assistant was the only one who knew where to look for the North Star. But one day Clumsy elf bumped into the cupboard and that cupboard shook. Then all of a sudden the assistant elf fell and landed on Clumsy elf. The assistant elf said he fell asleep up there. The Clumsy elf hurried to find Santa. Then Santa said that they didn't have to postpone Christmas after all.

Ricky Locke
Age 8



What Christmas Means To Me

Christmas means to give, love, share, and caring, and of course a lot of other nice things too. Christmas isn't just receiving presents, it's giving presents. That's what counts. When you give a present to someone, you're showing them that you love them. Maybe you're spending all of your money, but you also are showing someone you love them. So next Christmas get someone something so they'll know that you love them.

Jennifer Cote
Age 8



Save Christmas

One day on December 23 the letters from Santa all came back. A boy named Tom was going to New York. But he got on the wrong plane. Tom went to the North Pole. He met Santa there. The reindeers talked to Tom too. He asked Santa why the letters were coming back, because a boy said, "P.S. you're not real." I know what we should do to get back the letters! Change the words. That's a great idea! Then December 25 at eight o'clock Santa rode in his sleigh and all the kids got what they wanted. Tom went home in Santa's sleigh.

Mathew Christy
Age 9



Santa Came

It was Christmas Eve. I was sitting in a big chair watching t.v. I was dreaming of Santa. Our tree was all decorated with beautiful ornaments and pretty lights. Pretty soon I had to go to bed. I went into the bathroom and brushed my teeth, and then I went to bed. But I could not sleep! But I finally went to sleep. When I woke up in the morning I looked in the living room at our tree. Santa came to our house! He left me a lot of toys! I had one big present. It was a race track. My brother got a truck and my mom got some new dishes and my dad got a new tool box. Then we went to my Grandma's house and had dinner. We had turkey, black olives, cranberry and a fruit cup. I loved the whole meal. Then we went for a walk in the woods. Then we came home and played with our toys. My race track was big and the cars went very fast around the track.

My brother's truck had a light that worked. Then when we were done playing my Dad took us for a ride through town. After that, it was time to have supper. I had a sandwich and my brother had some soup. Then we watched t.v. for a while. Then it was time for bed. I sat in bed thinking about my race track and about what I was going to do tomorrow. The next day I got out of bed, had breakfast, and then I went outside to play in the snow.

Eric Melloni
Age 9

The Agawam Advertiser News

The Reindeer With The Broken Leg

It was the day before Christmas and Santa was getting toys ready for Christmas. He was getting the deer ready when he heard a bump. He went where he heard the noise. It was Dusty. He had tripped over a rock when he was going to get his bell hung on his neck. Pinky the elf ran to see what had happened. She asked Santa what the noise was. Santa said that Dusty fell over a rock. Santa told Dusty to move his leg but he said he couldn't. Santa said, "Dusty broke his leg." "Pinky," Santa said, "go and find another deer that can take his place." Pinky looked but couldn't find anybody. Santa took Dusty inside. Santa said, "Where is the magic elf at?" Pinky said, "In the next room." "He can help," said Santa. They took Dusty in the next room. Then the magic elf said, "Reindeer magic help this reindeer" and then Dusty was well again. He was so well, he led the other reindeer. So all the kids got toys for Christmas.

Heather Marsh
Age 8 1/2

The Elf Who Was Missing

One winter's day all the elves were eating breakfast and when they ate they counted all the elves and Dooly said, "Where is Twetly?" They all said, "I don't know."



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Then Claus came in. (That's his nickname.) He said, "Good morning, my little elves." Then one of the elves said, "Claus?" "Yes Dooly!" "We are missing one of our elves." "Oh, dear," said Mrs. Claus. "Who?" said Santa Claus. "Twetly? Oh no! We can't make any color for the toys. He is the only painter I got." Then when they went to do their work they found Twetly. He was sleeping in the workshop. "Twetly, wake up." "Oh, hi guys. Come on, we got work to do. OK," Dooly told Santa Claus. And it was a happy Christmas.

Jami Couture
Age 8

What I Like About Christmas

I like Christmas because I can't wait to see what toys I got. Christmas is my favorite holiday. I like all the decorations on the houses. They are very pretty. I have to help a lot with the tree. I will help my Dad put the lights on the tree. And that's why I like Christmas.

Todd Boskiewicz
Age 8

SEE KIDS -
Page 30...





PREPARING FOR THE AGAWAM HIGH SCHOOL Winter Concert, Tuesday, December 17th, are, from left - Alexis Kohli, Chris Pisano, Becky Ludemann, and Tom Gionfriddo. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Clark School Open House



NANCY SHAKER & LINNEA CRAWFORD discuss student subject matter at the James Clark School Open House last month. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

High School Music Department To Hold Annual Winter Concert

by Alexis Ferioli
School Department Editor

Local residents desiring an enjoyable evening away from the hustle and bustle of holiday shopping will have the opportunity to relax as they attend the Agawam High School Music Department's Annual Winter Concert, Tuesday, December 17th.

The 60-minute program will take place at 7:30 p.m., in the senior high auditorium and feature performances by the Concert Band, Jazz Band, Chorale, and Show Choir.

Vocal music director Stephen Files points out that this year, the four groups will alternate performances, providing the audience with a more varied program.

He relates that another first will be University of Massachusetts student teacher Steven Hinks directing the 45-member Chorale as they perform "Because All Men Are Brothers."

Besides singing a jazz arrangement of traditional carols, the 38-member Show Choir will join the Chorale as both groups perform "Jazz Gloria" and "That Holy Night."

Files notes that "Jazz Gloria" will feature trumpet accompaniment by several members of the Concert Band.

For the finale, both vocal groups and Concert Band will perform traditional carols in a sing-a-long session with the audience.

Instrumental music director Scott Thompson reports that the Concert Band will perform two holiday favorites, "Winter Wonderland" and "Sleigh Ride," as well as "The Second Suite For Military Band" by Gustav Holst.

Renditions scheduled to be played by the Jazz Band include a medley of Christmas songs and "Coconut Champagne."

Thompson notes that the concert will also feature a performance by the Brass Quintet under the direction of senior Kelley Bolduc.

As a special highlight, The Santa's Helpers Septet will make their debut. The group, under the direction of

senior Tom Gionfriddo, who also wrote the original arrangements, promises some surprises for audience members.

Moreover, during the concert, Gionfriddo will perform a prelude on the school's 30-year-old organ which he helped to restore.

Both instructors state that their respective groups have been preparing for the annual concert since early fall. A dollar donation, which will aid the Music Department's transportation fund, will be solicited at the door.

Files relates that besides the Winter Concert, the Show Choir will be performing for two local organizations Monday evening, December 16th. After singing for the Agawam Women's Club at the Captain Leonard House, the group will perform for the Catholic Women's Club at St. John's Church.

The Show Choir will conclude its holiday performances by visiting the Agawam Lions Club dinner meeting at DaVinci's Restaurant, Wednesday, December 18th.

FAMILY DENTAL CARE

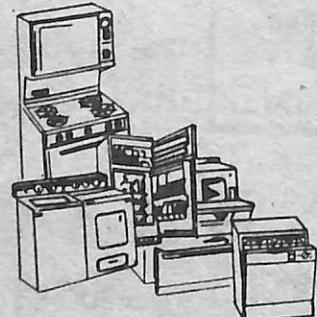
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HAPPE Committee Meets With Bruno For "Kids On Block"

by Alexis Ferioli
School Department Editor

Members of the Handicap Awareness Program Promoting Education (H.A.P.P.E.) committee met Wednesday, December 4th, to discuss final plans for purchasing the "Kids on the Block" program puppets.

An off-shoot of the Parent Teacher Organization Council, the group is comprised of representatives from each of the town's four elementary schools as well as the middle school.

Also in attendance at the early-morning meeting were Superintendent of Schools James Bruno, Jr., Associate Superintendent Donald Charest, and Parents Promoting Education Potential (PPEP) representative Iris Copson.

"Kids on the Block" program coordinator Nancy Melbourne reported that she has received a positive commitment from each of the schools which will be participating in the program.

She says approximately \$6,000 is needed to purchase the unique, life-sized puppets which will be stored in a central location.

According to Mrs. Melbourne, a town-wide contribution drive to help defray the cost of the puppets will soon be initiated by committee members.

Moreover, an early spring fundraiser will be planned if business and organizational contributions fail to meet the puppet's purchase price.

Bruno stated that he is very pleased by the progress the PTO Council has made not only by organizing the HAPPE committee, but also by improving communications between schools.

Members of the HAPPE committee who attended the informative meeting included Debbie Chechile and Barbara Guevin, Phelps; Terri Machia and Dawn Rivest, Robinson Park; Nancy Melbourne, Granger; and Dee Naciewicz and Noreen Poole, middle school.

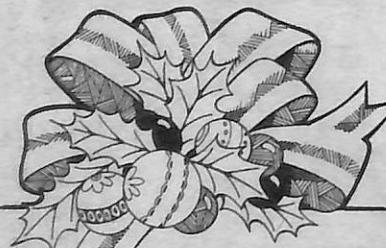
BayPath Junior College Sets Annual Service Of Lights

Bay Path Junior College's Annual Service of Lights, a program of seasonal music and words sponsored by the College's Interfaith Council, will be held on Wednesday, December 18th, at 7:30 p.m., in Mills Theatre, Carr Hall, on the Longmeadow campus. The public is cordially invited to attend and there is no charge for admission.

The ecumenical service will feature inspirational words by Bay Path's students, and from college chaplains Reverend Ward R. Smith of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, and Reverend Jeddie P. Brooks of St. Mary's Catholic Church.

In addition, Bay Path's Glee Club and smaller singing group, the Chamber Singers/Keynotes, will present a concert of varied, holiday-related music under the direction of Charles E. Page.

For copies of photos appearing in this issue, please call Jack Devine at his home, call 789-0053



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HAPPE COMMITTEE MEMBERS recently met to discuss purchasing the "Kids On The Block" program puppets which will be used at the four elementary schools as well as the middle school. Representatives attending the meeting included, seated, from left - Barbara Guevin, Debbie Chechile, and Noreen Poole. Standing, from left - Superintendent of Schools James V. Bruno, Iris Copson, Terri Machia, Dawn Rivest, Nancy Melbourne, Dee Naciewicz, and Associate Superintendent of Schools Donald Charest. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Phelps PTO Sponsors Store & Santa's Visit

On Monday, December 16th, Phelps School students will experience an exciting day. The PTO Christmas Store, sponsored annually by the organization, will be selling handcrafted gifts at prices ranging from 25 cents to \$1 per item. Each child will be allowed to purchase two gifts.

Preparation for the Christmas Store and its hand-

crafts began in September under the supervision of Jane Knodler and Linda Halback, along with the help of many volunteer parents. A special thanks to all who donated their time and efforts.

Christmas vacation will commence on Friday, December 20th, after a special visit from Mr. & Mrs. Santa Claus, who will have a gift for each student.

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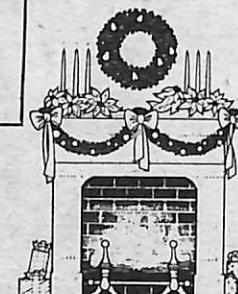
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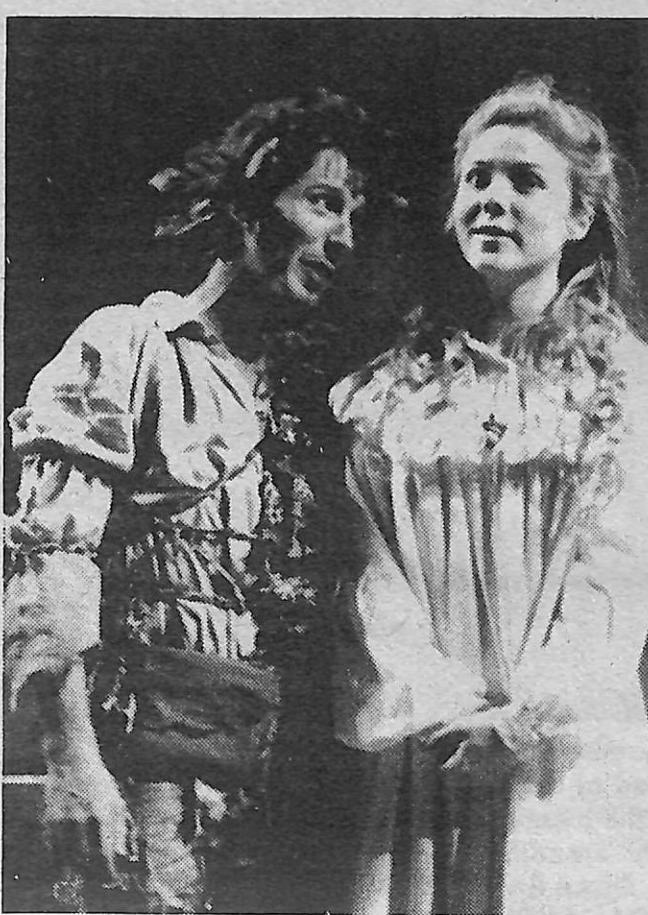
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Arts


CHARLES MICHAEL WRIGHT and **Kathryn Meisle** in a scene from *Peter Pan*, which runs at StageWest until December 22nd.

Children's Craft Workshop At Historical Museum

Discover traditional New England decorations in the children's workshops Colonial Holiday Confections. Saturday, December 14th, and Colonial Pierced Tin, Friday, December 27th, from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m., at the Connecticut Valley Historical Museum. Both workshops will be conducted by the Connecticut Valley Historical Museum's education staff. Fee for each class is \$7 (or \$5 for Friends of the Quadrangle). Pre-registration is necessary.

Young people will create an edible decoration using contemporary materials and methods, yet keeping to colonial patterns. These holiday confections are made of popcorn, cones, icing, and candies like those made in the colonial revival period.

The Colonial Pierced Tin workshop will introduce children to tin ware, an early New England decoration. Pierced tin was often a useful object as well as a decorative one. Using traditional methods and patterns, children will create a decorative piece while learning about the time and care put into hand-crafted pierced tin.

The Connecticut Valley Historical Museum is supported in part by grants from the Springfield Arts Lottery, the Massachusetts Council on the Arts and Humanities, and the Institute of Museum Services.

The historical museum is located on the Quadrangle, at the corner of State and Chestnut Streets in downtown Springfield, and is a member of the Springfield Library and Museums Association.

Audience Was Captivated At StageWest... *Peter Pan* Delightful Holiday Fare

by Phil Benoit
Advertiser News Entertainment Editor

Peter Pan or The Boy Who Wouldn't Grow Up, which runs at StageWest's S. Prestley Blake Theatre until December 22nd, is a thoroughly captivating production that provides perfect holiday entertainment for theatergoers of all ages.

Children will be delighted with the trappings of a delightful fantasy world, and adults will be treated to some sly humor that's been geared towards them.

J.M. Barrie's now-classic fairy tale takes place in 1904 (the year it was originally written) and begins in the London home of the Darling family. In this typically English household, we have two parents, Mr. & Mrs. Darling (Barry Boys and Ellen Lauren), and three delightful children; 12-year-old Wendy (Kathryn Meisle), 10-year-old John (Mahlon Bouldin), and six-year-old Michael (Kimberly King).

On one particular evening, when Mr. & Mrs. Darling are away from home, a strange visitor pays a visit to the bedroom of the Darling children. This visitor, of course, is the play's title character — Peter Pan (Charles Michael Wright), an ageless lad who comes from a far-off place and possesses the ability to fly through the air.

After talking with the Darling children for a while, Peter uses some magic dust to enable his newfound friends to fly as he does, and then the four of them travel to Never-Never Land, a magical realm where Peter and his fellow juvenile comrades live and play.

Not Free Of Danger

However, Never-Never Land is not a place that is completely free of danger. Always on the lookout for Peter is a band of marauding pirates and their sinister leader, Captain Hook (also played by Barry Boys), who — as his name implies — wears a hook where his right hand used to be.

Hook lost his hand in an earlier skirmish with Peter, and if it's the last thing he does, this pirate leader plans to avenge the loss of this limb.

StageWest's production of *Peter Pan* is a feast for the eyes. Some of V. Jane Sutell's costumes evoke the stodgy, conservative atmosphere of Victorian England, and the rest of the outfits, in contrast, are colorfully bright and mesh with the play's fantasy elements.

Never-Never Land, as rendered by scenic designer Peter David Gould, is a beautifully enchanting place that looks like something from a book on fantasy art. Gould's depictions of the Darling children's bedroom and Captain Hook's ship are both equally impressive and reflect a great deal of first-rate craftsmanship.

However, it is the flying, thanks to equipment from Foy Inventories of Las Vegas, which truly captures our attention. When Peter, Wendy, John and Michael are airborne, the lines holding them up are occasionally invisible to the eye, and these four characters float and fly about with such grace and fluidity that you'll

find yourself enthralled by their movements.

All of the aforementioned technical aspects of this production will appeal to each and every theatergoer in the audience. But, for the adults, *Peter Pan* provides some subtleties that won't likely be comprehended by youngsters.

Director Gregory Boyd wanted to turn this staging of *Peter Pan* into more than just a child's play with lots of exciting action. He was also concerned with bringing out the sharp wit of J. M. Barrie's script.

For example, Captain Hook and his pirates are basically buffoons who are outwitted and ultimately defeated by Peter's clever trickery. Although some tension is created when Peter's friends are, at one point, in the clutches of Hook and his men, only the children in the audience will be worried about the fate of the good guys.

Adult theatergoers, on the other hand, can sit back and laugh at the proceedings onstage because they know that the villains will eventually lose.

As Barrie's script implies, the narrow-mindedness of grown-ups such as the story's villains can be outdone by the quick-thinking imaginations of kids such as Peter Pan.

But, there is an undertone of seriousness in this plot that gives special significance to the play. Barrie suggests that growing up (a.k.a. adulthood) is a time when one loses the innocence that characterizes the carefree days of childhood.

Childhood Not Perfect Either

At the same time, however, he also seems to suggest that childhood itself is not perfect either. Because Peter is destined to be a boy forever, Barrie implies that this character is a somewhat tragic figure who'll never be mature enough to face the realities and responsibilities of life.

Impressive performances abound in this StageWest production, and six cast members, in particular, are simply unforgettable. Portraying both Mr. Darling and Captain Hook, Boys exudes a pompous persona that makes both of his characters the perfect targets for the script's biting humor.

As Wendy, Miss Meisle is totally winsome and a joy to behold. In the role of Michael, Miss King projects a babyish and goofy personality that serves as a good source of humor.

Wright's portrayal of Peter Pan is invigorating and poignant at the same time. He does an excellent job of exhibiting his character's unbridled buoyancy, but he also manages to convey a sense of loneliness which results from his eternal state of boyhood.

And, dressed in animal outfits, Robert Boardman and Ray Jivoff drew much applause as a large dog and a crocodile, respectively.

Disney Film To Be Shown at Agawam Library

The Agawam Library will show the full length Walt Disney feature film, *The Love Bug*, on Saturday, December 28th, from 2:30 to 4:15 p.m.

The movie, starring Dean Jones, Michelle Lee, and Buddy Hackett, tells the story of Herbie, an emotional

Volkswagen, who tries to straighten out the life of a has-been racing car driver with riotous results.

The public is invited to attend. Admission is free. Children under six must be accompanied by an adult. To register, call the library, 789-1550.

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Encore Players' Uncle Willie Solid!

by Phil Benoit
Advertiser News Entertainment Editor

Uncle Willie, the latest production from the Encore Players, is a charming piece of lightweight entertainment that demonstrates how good casting can overshadow a flawed plot.

The Julie Berns and Irving Elman play, which ran last Thursday through Saturday, has two more performances scheduled for this Friday (December 13th) and Saturday (December 14th). All shows begin at 8:00 p.m. at the Emmanuel Church, 761 Sumner Avenue (corner of Sumner Avenue and White Street), Springfield.

Set primarily in the Bronx during the first decade of the 20th century, *Uncle Willie* deals with an elderly, kindhearted Jewish man (Harold Clayton) and the problems that occur within a two-family tenement that's owned by his niece, Esther (Mary Treiber), and her husband, Leo (Bob Laviolette).

Uncle Willie is always willing to help Esther and Leo, and this willingness to help can sometimes lead to trouble. When there's a vacancy in his niece's tenement, Uncle Willie gets an Irish police officer named Charlie Donegan (Jeff Whitney) to fill the vacancy.

However, Esther herself has a prospective tenant, a widow named Mrs. Simon (Helene Bernstein), and thus, a difficulty arises. But, in the end, Officer Donegan takes the vacancy and moves in with his wife, Ellen (Cheryl Gardner), and their three young daughters (Lisa and Laura Balboni, and Tanya Marzano).

At first, things between Esther and Ellen Donegan are not exactly rosy. A problem and misunderstanding involving one of the Donegan daughters put the two women at odds with each other, thereby hampering the possibility of them ever becoming good friends.

Meanwhile, Esther and Leo find themselves in some legal trouble. After Officer Donegan and his family move into their tenement, a boorish, middle-aged woman named Francey (Fredi Rubin) attempts to sue Esther and Leo for that apartment because she feels that her mother, the aforementioned Mrs. Simon, should be the rightful tenant.

Plot With Many Conflicts

Uncle Willie has a rambling plot that features many conflicts which are either poorly developed or inadequately resolved. For example, Esther and Leo hope to curb Francey's wrath by trying to pair her lonely, widowed mother with Uncle Willie, who has been a bachelor all of his life.

When this instance of matchmaking doesn't pan out, Uncle Willie himself attempts to pair Francey with someone that he knows. As a result of this contrived development, the suit against Esther and Leo is never mentioned again and Francey gets a husband (Sal Marzano) who becomes the unlucky recipient of her incessant nagging.

Another gaffe within the framework of *Uncle Willie*'s story is what occurs after tragedy befalls one of the major characters. The tragedy itself is handled with the

proper solemnity, but the subsequent portion of the play doesn't truly show the emotional reactions of the people who are hit the most by this tragedy.

However, in spite of these problems with the script, I give *Uncle Willie* a solid recommendation. While some of their motivations and conflicts are not carefully delineated, the characters who populate this play are basically funny people who have much humorous dialogue to say.

Uncle Willie is far from being the most well thought-out story that I have ever seen, but it does provide a great deal of laughs. Moreover, it is a three-act play which moves at a quick and energetic pace that prevents it from ever becoming dull.

Yet, the best thing about this Encore Players production is its acting. All of the roles were well cast, and director Jean Burns does a skillful job of getting her actors to utilize their talents to the best of their abilities.

Strong Memorable Performances

Consequently, *Uncle Willie* has strong, memorable performances and, as a result, showcases a mixture of comical but convincing Jewish, Irish, and New York accents.

In the roles of Esther and Leo, Miss Treiber and Laviolette display an amusing combination of diverse personality traits. Esther comes across as a short-tempered woman who expects to have her demands met, and Leo is a low-key, patient man who is always trying to placate his wife.

Thanks to Miss Treiber and Laviolette, this couple is fun to watch and the source of much good-natured humor.

As the rather obnoxious Francey, Miss Rubin occasionally steals the show. She exhibits an abrasive personality that's more humorous than hateful, and her sarcastic lines are delivered with acid-tongued zest.

But, the best performance of all is given by Clayton in the title role. A peddler, he possesses the gift of gab, Uncle Willie serves as the narrator of the story and plays a major part in many of the incidents which occur throughout the play.

Clayton gives his character a grandfatherly demeanor which turns him into a most endearing man, and this admirable quality furnishes the plot with most of its warmhearted comedy and tenderness.

The remainder of *Uncle Willie*'s large cast also contributes strong acting, and everyone involved with the set, costumes, music, and other technical areas deserve much credit, too. This production is a delightful holiday gift from the Encore Players, and its last act — which occurs during the Christmas and Hanukkah season — is sure to put you in the proper Yuletide spirit.

*PUBLISHER'S NOTE: Tickets for *Uncle Willie* are \$5.00 (general admission) and \$4.00 (senior citizens and students). They can be purchased at the door prior to each performance, or reserved by calling 783-1616 or 737-0918.



HAROLD CLAYTON as the title character in *Uncle Willie*, the latest production from the Encore Players.



MARY TREIBER (left) and Cheryl Gardner in a scene from the Encore Players' production of *Uncle Willie*.

Agawam's Alberta Cushman Publishes Book On Senior Citizens

Agawam resident Mrs. Cushman, who Alberta Cushman of "feels like a born New Meadow Street Englander," came to Springfield as a bride in book *All Our Yesterday's*, 1928. After a few years, a nostalgic look at the she and her husband, past written for and about Walter, bought a home in senior citizens, present Longmeadow, where they and future.

This is a selection of where their children at columns written over the tended school. past several years for the After her husband's *Holyoke Transcript-Telegram*, covering a Mrs. Cushman moved to wide variety of subjects. an apartment in Agawam

where she has lived for the past 11 years. She has had varied job experiences, first serving as a substitute teacher in the Springfield schools.

At the time of the Korean War, she went to work at Springfield Armory where she became the Armory librarian. After 17 years in this capacity, the Armory was "phased out" and Mrs. Cushman returned to the

field of education. She was appointed librarian at Springfield's Duggan Junior High School and remained there until her retirement in 1974.

Mrs. Cushman is a member of South Con-

gregational Church, Springfield Women's Club, the College Club, and the Holyoke and Springfield Bridge Clubs. Volunteer work was as former publicity chairman for the Springfield YWCA and as

a long-time Girl Scout leader. She frequently visits the Agawam Senior Center, where for some time she was a volunteer feature writer for the Agawam Senior Center News.

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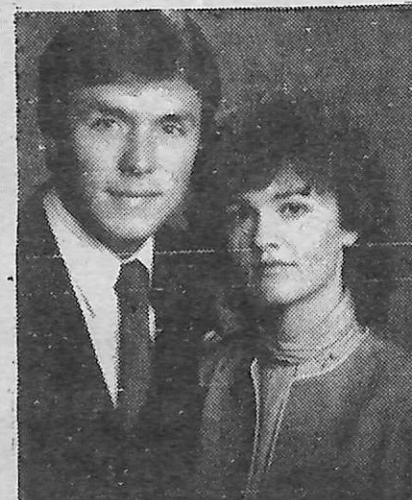
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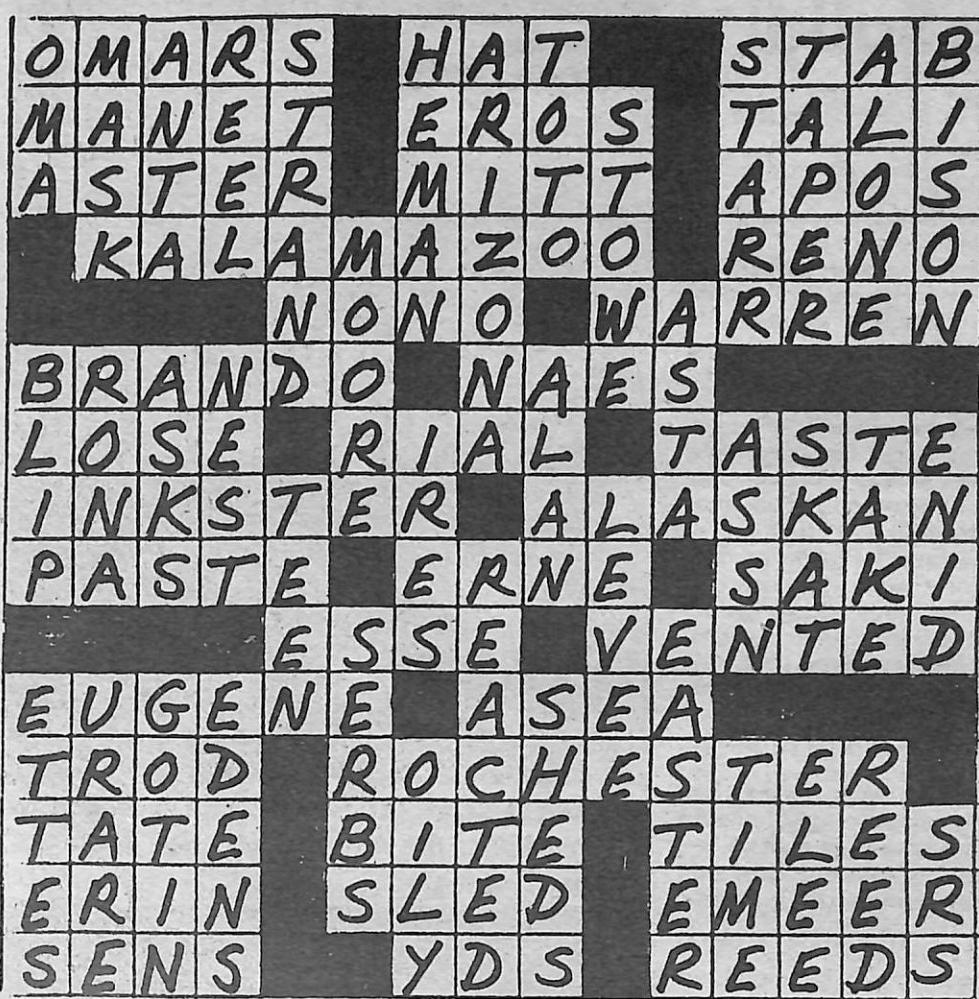
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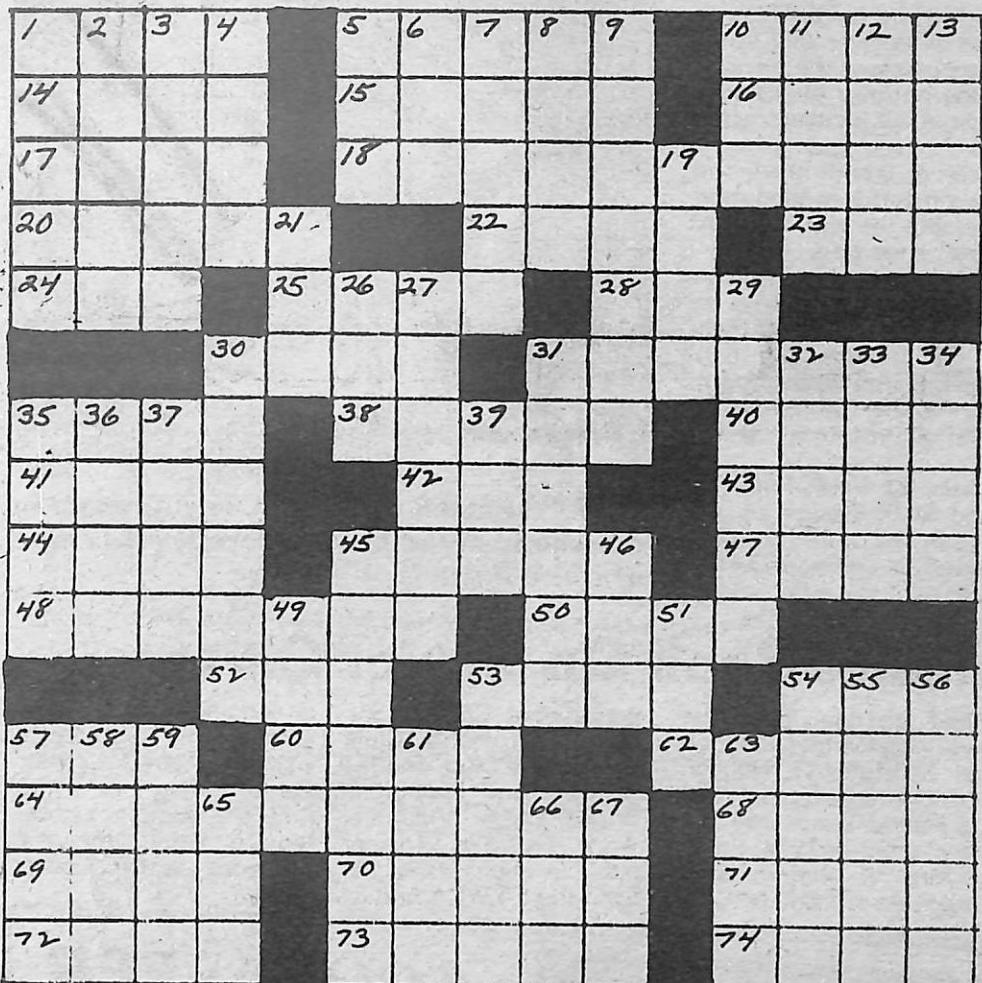
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- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Fire or white event | 34. Help |
| 5. "Take -- off your feet" | 57. Tea type |
| 10. Infrequent | 60. Sea eagle |
| 14. Andy's pard | 62. Thrust |
| 15. Famous Franciscan | 64. Icon |
| 16. Frank's "Forbidden
--" | 68. Spare or flat |
| 17. Modernists | 69. "It's -- to tell..." |
| 18. Some Popes? | 70. Call forth |
| 20. Indian abode | 71. Mimer |
| 22. Food for dobbin | 72. Cinci team |
| 23. Formerly | 73. Ms. Adoree |
| 24. -- Amandi | 74. Pianist Myra |
| 25. Speech fault |
DOWN |
| 28. Road curve | 1. Dec. 25 notable |
| 30. Farming implement | 2. Mid-East potentate |
| 31. Benedictions | 3. " -- the loop" |
| 35. Rome to a Roman | 4. To be (Latin) |
| 38. Appellations | 5. Residue |
| 40. Contest of a kind | 6. " -- the lion" |
| 41. Mouthward | 7. Deck |
| 42. Months - abbr. | 8. Caucasian |
| 43. "My friend --" | 9. Type of endangered
snail |
| 44. Singular one | 10. Batter |
| 45. Venom | 11. Seir's descendant |
| | 12. Flyer Fonck |

- | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| 47. Cleo killers | 13. Repose |
| 48. Goes AWOL | 19. Bones |
| 50. Equal in score | 21. Building addition |
| 52. Musical notation | 26. Charged particle |
| 53. Ash | 27. Fen's |
| 54. "Help" | 29. Mid-Easterner |
| 57. Tea type | 30. Monks |
| 60. Sea eagle | 31. Bother |
| 62. Thrust | 32. Auricles |
| 64. Icon | 33. Canadian law arm |
| 68. Spare or flat | 34. Red and Dead |
| 69. "It's — — to tell..." | 35. Crucifix |
| 70. Call forth | 36. Caen's river |
| 71. Mimer | 37. Ms. West et al |
| 72. Cinci team | 39. Me in Paree |
| 73. Ms. Adoree | 45. Tyro |
| 74. Picnic Mo | 46. "All — — — — —" |

DOWN

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Dec. 25 notable | 51. Moray |
| 2. Mid-East potentate | 53. Wyoming mountain
range |
| 3. " — the loop" | 54. Take pot-shots |
| 4. To be (Latin) | 55. Monsters |
| 5. Residue | 56. Oracles |
| 6. " — the lion" | 57. Burn |
| 7. Deck | 58. Putt objective |
| 8. Caucasian | 59. "Put — — on it" |
| 9. Type of endangered
snail | 61. Church part |
| 10. Batter | 63. Beehive state |
| 11. Seir's descendant | 65. Affirmative reply |
| 12. Flyer Fonck | 66. Hawaiian instrument |
| | 67. Shoe size |

Middle School Concert Players

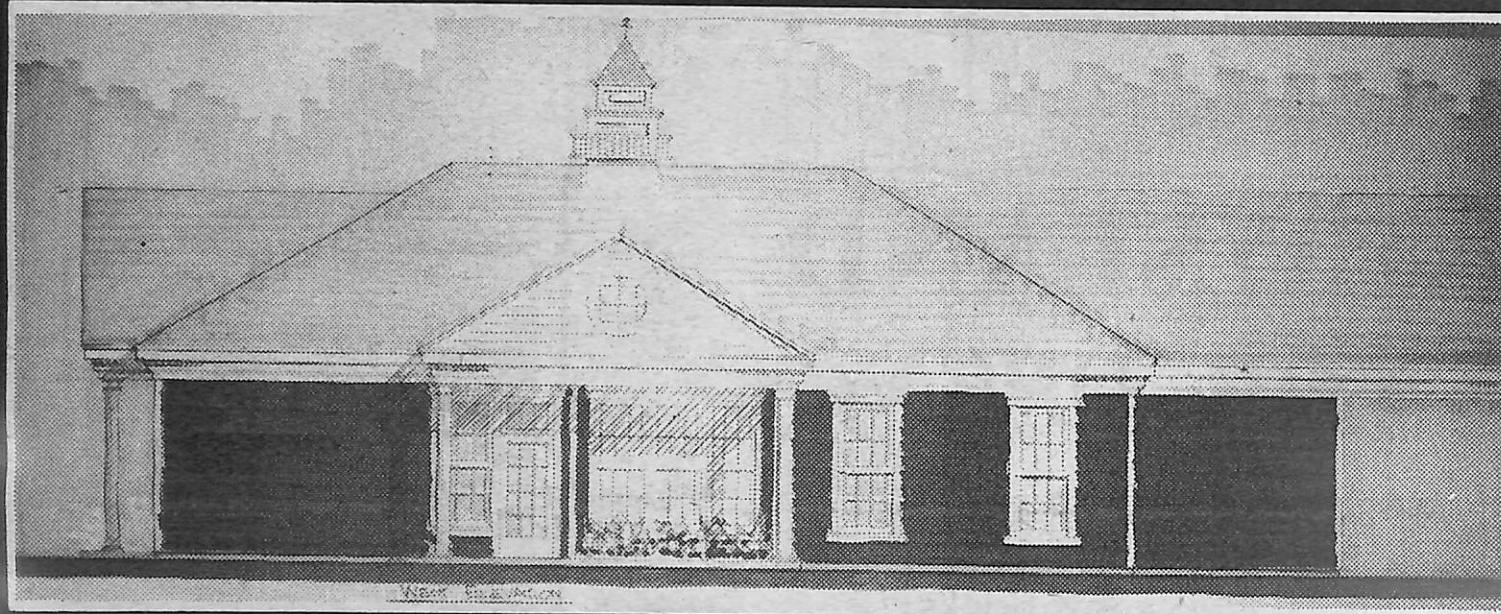


THE FOLLOWING STUDENTS WERE FEATURED at the Agawam Middle School Winter Concert on Wednesday, December 11th. Back row, from left - Katie Hodzikiewicz, Sean Sullivan, and Pat Daly. Front row - Molly Moriarty, Maura Martin, and Renee LaMothe. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.



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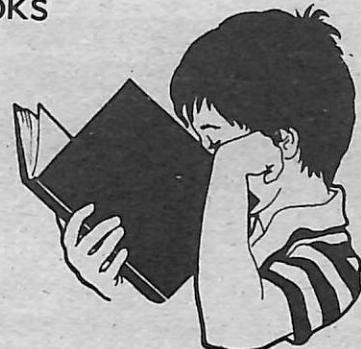
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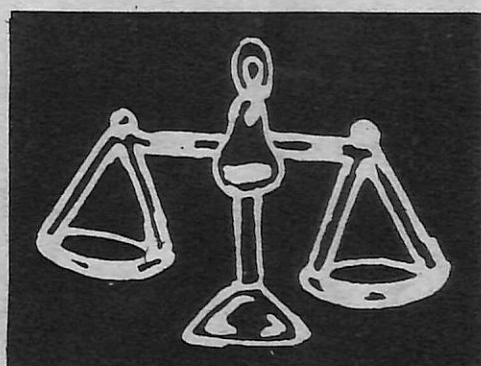
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Wed. - Fri.
Noon - Eight P.M.

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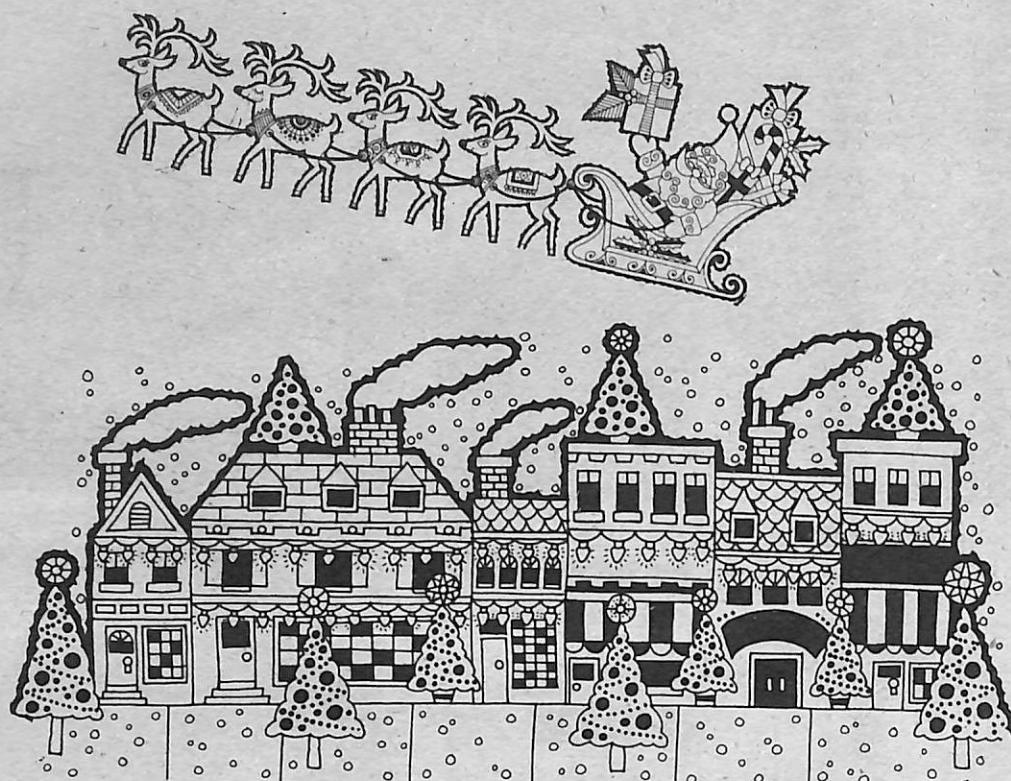


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DINA DI TOMASO & ALEXANDRA PAGE, two youngsters from Agawam, will perform with the Berkshire Ballet's performance of the *Nutcracker* on Saturday, December 21st.



**PHILM
REVIEW**

by Phil Benoit
Entertainment Editor

Rocky IV: A Big Letdown

Although I have been a fan of the *Rocky* films since the first one came out nine years ago, I was thoroughly disappointed by Sylvester Stallone's latest boxing picture, *Rocky IV*. It is nothing but a hollow, aloof movie and a testament to the fact that the adventures of the Italian Stallion have no more punch.

At the beginning of this sequel, the Soviet Union has entered the world of professional boxing, and Rocky Balboa's (Stallone) one-time opponent and current friend Apollo Creed (Carl Weathers) wants to fight the Russians' premier puncher, Ivan Drago (Dolph Lundgren).

However, Apollo's wish proves to be a disastrous one because he meets an untimely death at the hands of Drago. To avenge his pal's demise, Rocky decides to go to Russia and battle the Soviet boxer in a bout that is to take place on Christmas Day.

When I review a film, I make it a habit not to reveal important details about the plot, particularly when they concern the death of a major character.

But, unless you've been living in a cave in Siberia for the past month, the passing away of Apollo Creed won't come as an earth-shattering revelation to you.

The television ads for *Rocky IV* inform us of this character's fate and, thus, deprive the picture of some suspense that would have provided much emotional impact. However, this lack of surprise is far from being the biggest problem with *Rocky IV*.

The death of Apollo Creed is, in itself, an interesting plot development that had the potential to be effective. Apollo was a noble adversary in the title character's first two pictures, and he went on to help the Italian Stallion defeat the ferocious Clubber Lang (played to perfection by *The A Team*'s Mr. T.) in *Rocky III*.

As a result, Apollo's demise should be sad, and Ivan Drago should be the kind of villain whom you'd love to hate.

Unfortunately, the opposite effect is achieved. Thanks to Stallone, who directed and wrote this picture in addition to the last two *Rocky* epics, Apollo comes across as a cocky fool who can't face the fact that his days as a boxer are over.

At a press conference to promote his fight with Drago, Apollo acts like a smart-aleck teenager, and his Russian opponent displays well-mannered, mature behavior. Consequently, his subsequent death in the ring comes off as a self-imposed, fitting end to his life instead of a tragic accident.

Meanwhile, the character of Ivan Drago is not in the least bit detestable. Although he is a huge, muscled man with a constant sneer on his face, Drago never does anything to earn our wrath.

As I said earlier, Apollo's death appears to be more Apollo's fault than his. Furthermore, Drago has very

few lines of dialogue in *Rocky IV*, and the small amount of words that he does utter are delivered without any emotion by Lundgren.

In short, this character is nothing more than a flesh-and-blood robot who has no personality. By the end of the movie, he is but a pathetic puppet of the Soviet government, which Stallone depicts in stereotypical terms that were old hat when Joe McCarthy was a United States senator.

Another character who suffers because of Stallone's inept writing and direction is Paulie (Burt Young), Rocky's loudmouthed brother-in-law. Throughout the first three *Rocky* films, Paulie was an exasperating slob who occasionally provided some effective comic relief.

But, in *Rocky IV*, Stallone turns him into a completely annoying character who doesn't add anything to the picture, especially in the nauseating scenes in which he converses with a robot that Rocky gave him for his birthday.

The worst thing about this sequel, however, is that it lacks the emotional characterization which was present in all of its predecessors. The Italian Stallion was a human being who experienced self-doubt and periods of sadness throughout his first three movies, and it was these all-too-human feelings which made him likable and easy to relate to.

Unfortunately, Stallone has changed his character's internal fiber for *Rocky IV*. Instead of being the physically tough yet emotionally sensitive boxer whom we have been able to root for in the past, Rocky has become a stoic and somewhat grim fighter who is reminiscent of the disturbed Vietnam veteran John Rambo, Stallone's other box-office champion.

For example, while he was grief-stricken by the passing away of his aged manager Mickey (Burgess Meredith) in the last film, Rocky does not appear to be overly sad when his friend Apollo dies in the newest picture. In fact, Stallone himself truly comes to life only when he delivers a woefully corny speech about U.S.-Soviet relations at the end of the movie.

Rocky IV also suffers from the way it was photographed and edited. The film looks like a string of music videos, with most of the scenes having a flashy, rapid-fire pace that provides little time for interaction between the characters.

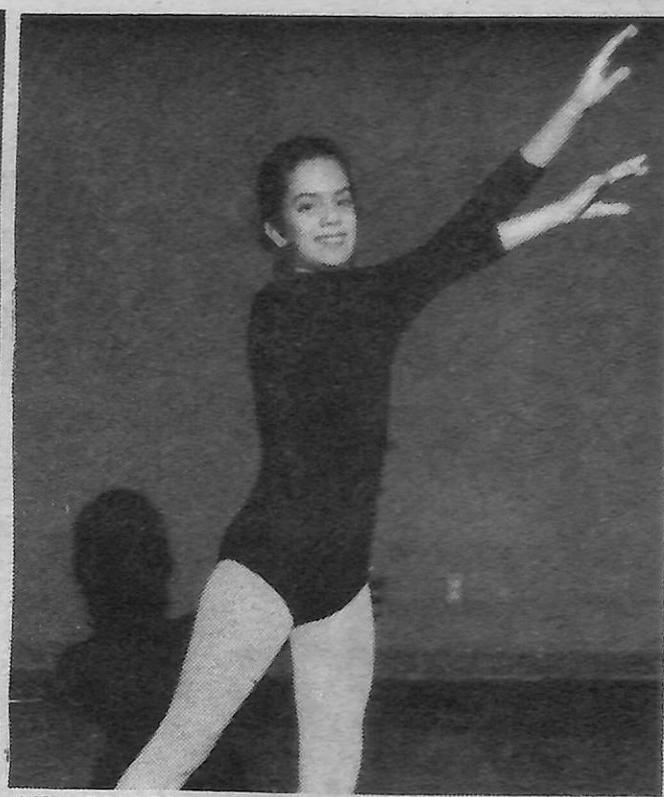
For instance, the fight between Apollo and Drago is preceded by a gaudy and time-wasting production number featuring singer James Brown and an entire complement of Las Vegas chorus girls.

What's more, the fight between Rocky and Drago is disappointing. Like the rest of the picture, this confrontation lacks true drama and has the superficial pizzazz of a music video.

Rocky IV, however, is redeemed from being a complete mess by Talia Shire's performance as the Italian Stallion's steadfast wife, Adrian. Although she has little to do in this sequel, Shire does infuse the story with a warmhearted presence and — in a brief scene where her character and Stallone's are celebrating their wedding anniversary — affords us a momentary look at the poignancy which used to be at the heart of the *Rocky* series.

Rating: 1 STAR (On a scale of 0-4 stars)

***THE PHILM GUIDE FOR PARENTS:**
Rocky IV is rated PG for some violence and strong language.



LISA DIALESSI of Michael Street, Feeding Hills, also will be performing with the Berkshire Ballet.

Local Students Dance In the Nutcracker

Tchaikovsky's Christmas Classic *Nutcracker* comes to life again on Saturday, December 21st at 2:00 and 8:00 p.m., at the Springfield Symphony Hall.

Included for this year: Designer Carol Vollet Garner's new first-act costumes; dancing the role of the prince will be Randall Graham, featured soloist with the World Famous Joffrey Ballet; and dozens of local children will be appearing, including Lisa Dialessi, Dina DiTomas, Alexandra Page, Amy Wisniewski, and Kerri Demers.

Ticket information is available from Symphony Hall Box Office, 787-6600.

The Berkshire Ballet is celebrating ten years of their Christmas favorite, the *Nutcracker*. This will be the sixth consecutive year that the Pittsfield based troupe makes a tour stop in Springfield, and this year more than 80 local children will be on stage as mice, reindeer, soldiers, angels and more.

From Hatfield to Longmeadow, these youngsters are taking a step that many hope will lead to artistically fulfilling careers in dance. "They have a real drive to succeed," says Ballet Mistress Nancy Ropolewski Pierce. "It gives these children a chance to see both sides of dance; the hard work of practice and the joy of performing."

The *Nutcracker* is the story of Clara, a little girl who is given a nutcracker for Christmas which turns into a prince who guides her through the Land of the Sweets.

The pivotal role of Clara is being played by Kathryn Walat, 11, who attends school in Longmeadow and studies at Dance Arts under the tutelage of Agawam's Deborah Haskins. The show has an innocent, dreamlike quality that seems to appeal equally to adults and children.

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Sports



AGAWAM POLICE OFFICER JAMES FRANTZ makes a point during presentation at the Chemical Awareness Workshop at Agawam High School, Monday, December 9th. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.



AGAWAM HIGH ATHLETES, from left - Tony Young, Rick Parolo, and Peter Sibilia listen to the discussion being led by police officer James Franz and health educator Ron Rix, Monday, December 9th. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

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AGAWAM HIGH HEALTH EDUCATION INSTRUCTOR RON RIX listens to response from audience after explaining how someone with a drug or alcohol problem might respond to someone questioning he/she on the problem. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

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400 Attend First Drug-Alcohol Session For AHS Athletes

by Judith Kelliher
Advertiser News Sports Editor

About 400 student athletes, parents, and coaches crammed into the Agawam High School cafeteria on Monday night, December 9th, from a Chemical Awareness Workshop, conducted by James Franz of the Agawam Police Department and Ronald Rix, a health educator at the school.

The workshop on drug/alcohol use and abuse lasted about two hours and focused on the preventative approach and early detection of drug/alcohol abuse about teenagers.

All winter sports athletes, at least one parent per athlete, and all varsity and junior varsity coaches were asked to attend, according to Athletic Director Clifford Kibbe.

Franz and Rix included in their discussion: why people use drugs; why student athletes turn to drugs; and the concerns parents and students have on the effects of drug/alcohol abuse.

Happy About Big Turnout

"I feel really good about what went on here tonight," said Rix at the end of the workshop. "The most important thing was that parents and students were together and communicated about drug and alcohol abuse. They've taken a positive step towards dealing with the problem."

Franz added, "We accomplished opening a line of communication between the parents and the kids. Hopefully, that will bring to mind the problem of drug and alcohol abuse and ways to try and prevent it."

According to Rix, the reason the workshop focused on student athletes was because the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association (MIAA) has been attempting to develop programs throughout the state. He said athletes, due to the added pressure of even more competition, need to be aware of the problem.

Using large sheets of paper at the front of the cafeteria and a magic marker, Franz and Rix asked the audience why student athletes might use and abuse drugs or alcohol. Their responses were written on the sheets of paper for all to see.

Some of the responses given were: peer pressure, escape, professional athletes do it, low self-esteem, sign of maturity, and lack of goals.

From there, Rix used "role playing" to demonstrate how someone (named "Ron") with a drug/alcohol problem might deal with questions concerning his/her anxieties.

Rix asked the audience to interact with his role playing. What resulted was "Ron" had an answer for everything when asked about his "problem."

SEE DRUG WORKSHOP - Page 40...



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DESPITE THE FOUL WEATHER WHICH PLAGUED the Annual Thanksgiving Day clash between Agawam and West Springfield High Schools, members of the Agawam High Football Booster Club were still out in force for the Annual Turkey Day Breakfast. Hard at work in the kitchen are boosters Jim Maloney and Bill Mezzetti. In photo right, Mike and Chris Corgan enjoy their sausage and eggs before going out to Harmon Smith Field to watch the Brownies play in sleet, freezing rain, and rain. *Advertiser News photos by Jack Devine.*

DRUG WORKSHOP - From Page 39...

"Did you see what Ron did?", asked Rix. "When you tried to ask him anything about his problem, he got around the question. Ron wasn't admitting he had a problem. That made it very tough to get inside his head."

The What Wheel

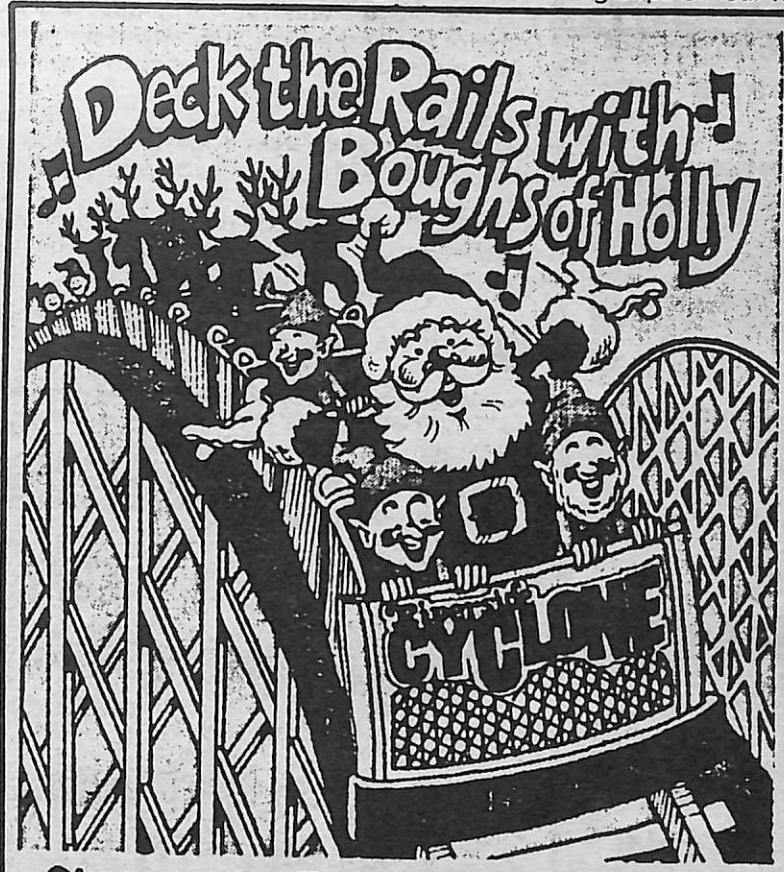
The next device used in the presentation was the "What Wheel." This "What Wheel" is a circle drawn on a piece of paper with a line running to the middle.

Each person was asked to write down any concerns he/she had about drug/alcohol abuse. Each time they had a concern, it would make another "spoke", or line in the wheel. Rix said the more spokes (concerns), the stronger the wheel (ability to deal with the problem of drug/alcohol abuse).

Using the "What Wheel," the audience was asked to share its ideas, first in groups of two, and then in groups of four-to-six persons.

This was followed by each respective athletic team meeting with their coaches. The teams discussed ways in which they, as a group, could help combat drug/alcohol abuse.

The workshop concluded with the student athletes, coaches, and parents signing an optional agreement which stated that the student athlete promised not to use drugs or alcohol during the 1985-86 interscholastic winter sports season.



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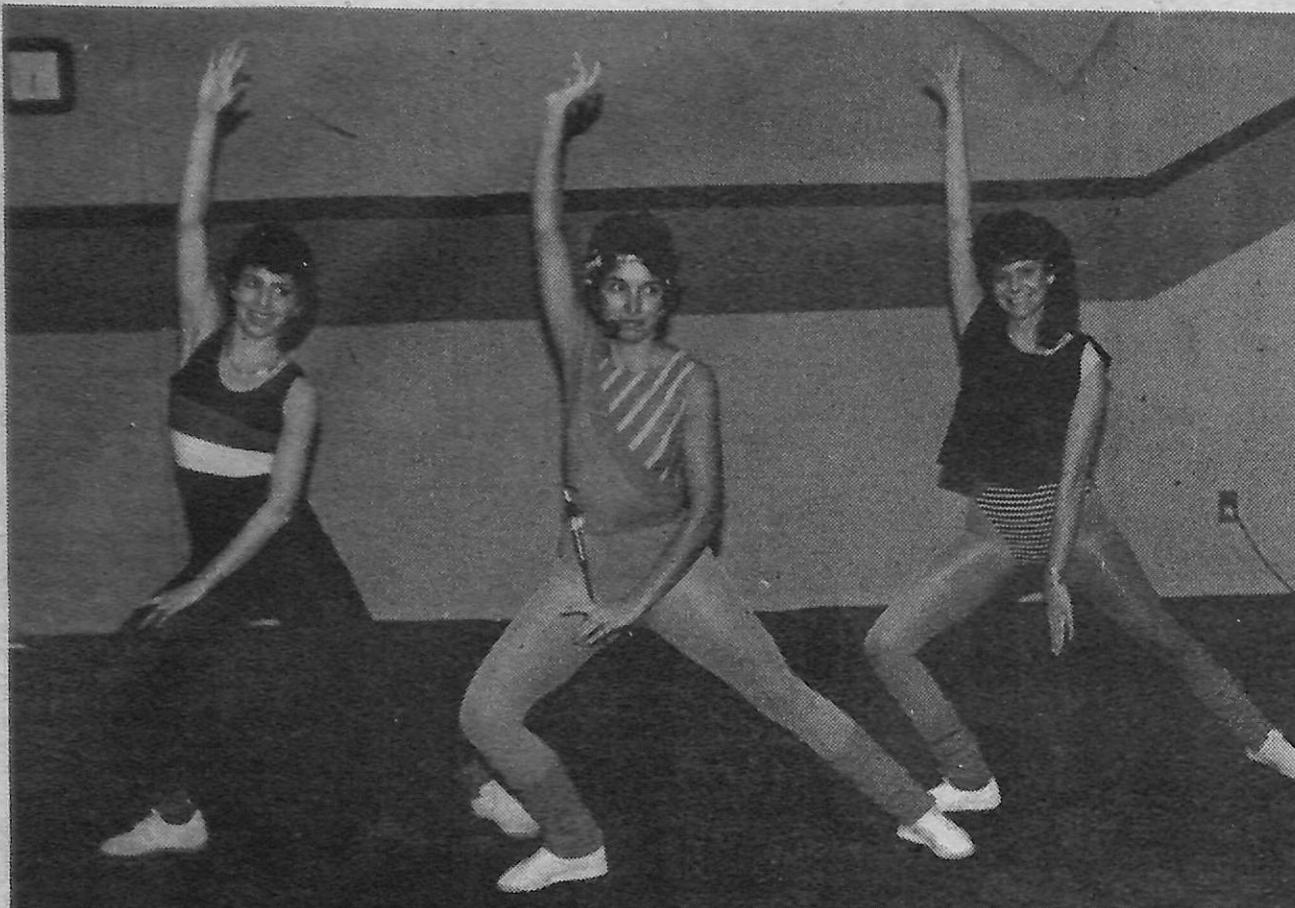
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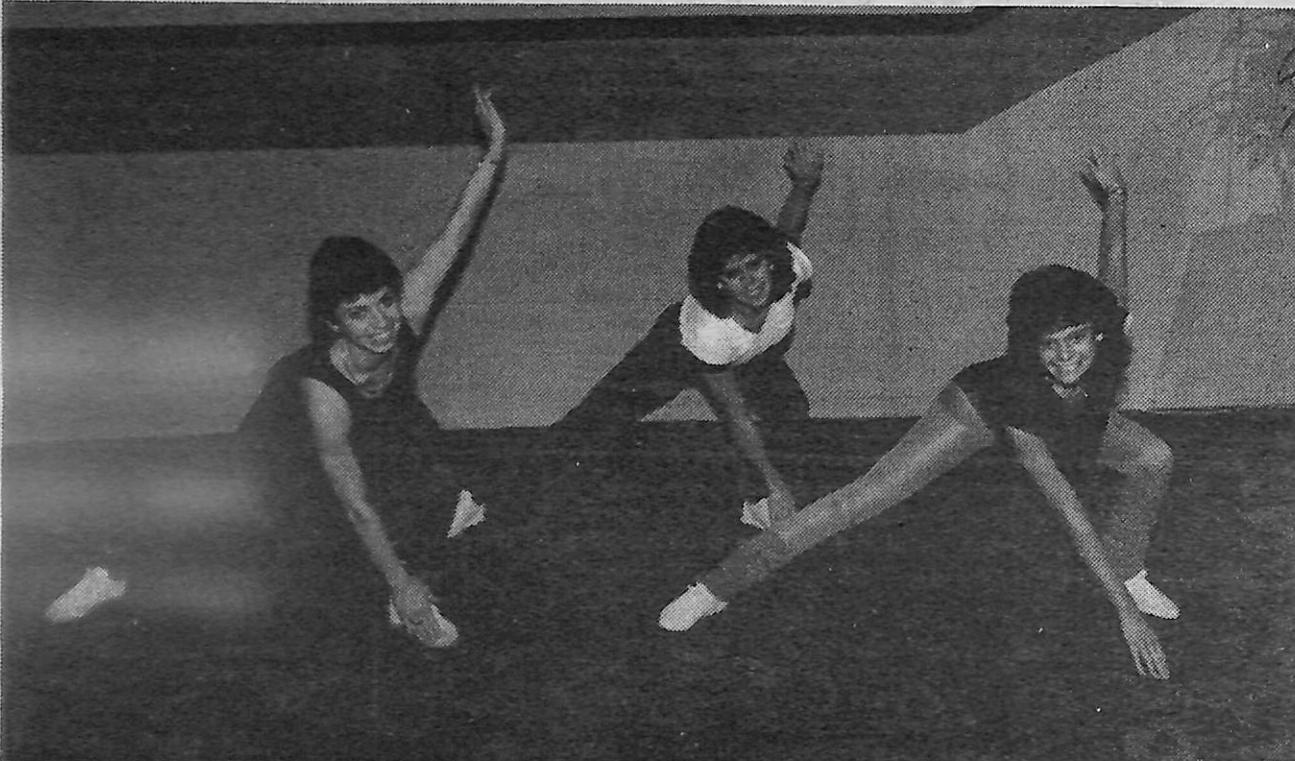
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MOVING TO THE INSTRUCTION OF VICKI SLEEPER (center) are aerobic exercise participants Jean Guzik (left) and Lori Carbone at Fitness First Racquetball and Health Club. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.



WORKING HARD BUT HAVING FUN doing aerobic exercises at Fitness First in Feeding Hills are, from left - Jean Guzik, Lisa Phillips, and Lori Carbone. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

Park & Rec Seeks Over-30 Players For Hoop League

This adult basketball league is for anyone who has reached their 30th year of life. The "Over 30" League is organized for both total teams or individuals who would like to be assigned to a team. If interested, report to the Agawam High School Gym on December 8th or 15th from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. For further information, contact league commissioner Peter Hanson at 786-2355. Teams will practice each Sunday during the month of December and the games will begin in January, 1986.

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The Agawam High School Gym will be open for adults who wish to play informal basketball on Monday nights, December 9th, 16th, and 23rd, from 8:00 to 10:00 p.m. The cost is \$2.00 per person payable to the supervisor at the door. You are requested to bring your own basketball. There will be no program during the holiday season. The program will resume on Monday, January 6th, 1986 and run through the month of March.

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FITNESS FIRST Offers Aerobics As Major Fitness Program

by Judith Kelliher
Advertiser News Sports Editor

Is fitness here to stay? According to Fitness First Racquetball and Health Club co-director Paula Welker, fitness is no longer "just for fun," but a necessity. "I feel like the general population believes that fitness is a lifetime thing and they constantly need a way to maintain their health," said Mrs. Welker. "There's so much publicity on the benefits of exercise, it's no longer just a 'trend,'" she said from the Feeding Hills club.

One area of fitness that is going strong is aerobic exercise, which is constantly improving, said Mrs. Welker. Aerobics is one of a number of fitness programs that Fitness First offers. Mrs. Welker, a seven-year veteran of teaching aerobics, heads a staff of three instructors, including Cathy Dinnie, Terri Cabral, and Vicki Sleeper.

Presently, Fitness First offers two levels of aerobic exercise, beginner and intermediate, while maintaining an emphasis on proper form and technique, Mrs. Welker said.

Correct Form And Technique

"It's so important to make sure that persons are doing the exercises properly. We train all our staff to emphasize the need for correct form and technique. If a person isn't doing the exercises properly, then they aren't going to benefit from it," said Mrs. Welker.

She went on to add that the aerobics staff used a minimum four-week training session to ensure proper technique as well as using proper vocabulary, routines and knowing things like all the major muscle groups before teaching the classes at Fitness First.

While many places offer aerobics as part of a fitness program, many of them don't follow the "proper order" within a workout to best benefit a person, according to Mrs. Welker.

"A typical aerobics workout is broken into about eight steps, which are in proper order to best benefit a person. It's important to go through these different areas if one is to truly get the most out of aerobics," noted Mrs. Welker.

A workout at the beginner level takes 45 minutes, while the intermediate takes one hour. Here's an example of a typical workout for both levels, with one (intermediate) being more intense.

1. Modified Warm-Up: The purpose is to increase the circulation of the blood throughout the body to all the muscles. The very modified motions may include walking or prancing in place along with big arm movements.

2. Warm-Up Stretches: These are done in order to help prevent an injury, for example, to the hamstring or hip areas.

3. More Warm-Up Stretches: Mrs. Welker said there could be up to 20 minutes of warm-ups within a workout.

SEE FITNESS FIRST - Page 42...

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Liptaks Channel Energies Into Body-Building

by Judith Kelliher
Advertiser News Sports Editor

Two former Agawam High ice hockey players have channeled their energies into another sport since graduating - body building, and have achieved some distinction among the muscle-bound.

Fraternal twins Dave and Dean Liptak, 1984 graduates of AHS, recently competed in the Mr. Teenage Baystate Body Building competition, Sunday, December 1st, at Mechanics Hall in Worcester.

Dave won the overall title and Dean finished fourth in his division (short). This was the first competition they entered since seriously devoting themselves to body building one year ago.

Were Strong Hockey Players

The Liptaks were noted for their hockey prowess in high school. Dave played goal and Dean was on the forward line. Dave won the Bessone Award for being the outstanding player in Western Mass. in 1983-84.

The twins gained interest in body building three years ago and the added body strength was a major factor in their fine play on the ice. Their teammates nicknamed the duo "The Barbarians." Enough said.

It wasn't until they watched the 1984 Mr. Teenage Baystate competition that they decided body building was the way to go to remain in-shape and involved in competition.

"When we saw the Mr. Teenage Baystate competition last year, we knew we wanted to compete in it," said Dave. "We set our goals and really trained hard for a year." The two 19 year-olds are both the same height (5'7") but decided not to compete in the same height class for the Mr. Teenage Baystate.

"We didn't want to be in the same height class because we didn't want to go against each other," said Dean, the fourth place finisher in the short (5'7") class. "We were hoping to both win our classes and then go against each other in the overall competition. It didn't work out that way but we both are happy about what happened."

Dave competed in the medium class (5'7" - 5'9") and defeated 10 other competitors to qualify for the overall round. From there, he went against the short class winner and the tall class winner (5'9" and up).

"I was pretty surprised that I won the whole thing," admitted Dave. "You don't really expect to win in the first show you compete in. It's a weird feeling being up there posing in front of everyone. But when the audience starts chanting your name and clapping it gets very exciting," he added.

Dave won two trophies at the competition and will be in next month's issue of *Muscle Development Magazine*.

Training At Big Daddy's

The Liptaks have been training at Big Daddy's in Springfield. Here, they have received expert advice about the sport from the likes of Joe Gomes, 1984 Mr. America.

"It's been really great to learn from people like Joe Gomes, who know all about body building. They tell you little tricks about dieting or posing that are really helpful," said Dave. "Anyone could get up there and pose but you have to know the right things to do in order to do well."

According to Dean, being able to train with his brother has been beneficial to both of them.

"We never outgrow each other as training partners. It's perfect. We have the same strengths so we can work on them together. It's so much easier to train with a partner than alone," said Dean. "Besides, we help each other with our diet over the year and keep the other from cheating."

The Liptaks have put their good-sized frames to use as bouncers at the Bar Association of Springfield, a popular pub in downtown Springfield. "It works out well because we can train all day and then go to work at night," said Dave.

FITNESS FIRST - From Page 41...

4. The Actual Exercises: These are used to help strengthen the cardiovascular system. A person's pulse is monitored throughout the workout.

5. Cool Down: While still on the move, for two minutes the heart rate goes down to a normal work load.

6. Floor Work: This area features work on specific areas such as the abdominal or leg muscles, or any other area.

7. The Gradual Stretching: For about the last eight minutes of a workout, long gradual stretches are done. These differ from the "warm-up" stretches in that the purpose is to elongate each muscle group to attain flexibility.

Use Of A Microphone By Instructor

Besides a well-trained staff, which emphasizes proper form and technique, Fitness First features a microphone to better hear the instructions, along with well-mixed music and a strong sound system, according to Mrs. Welker.

"By using a microphone, the instructors are ensured that everyone can hear them over the music, and therefore are following the proper technique," she said.

Mrs. Welker added that Springfield WAQY radio professionally mixes the workout music so that there is never a break in the music.

Agawam Soccer Association Champions



THE APOLLOS: Back row, from left - Coach Harvey Kendall, Nicole Burnett, Cynthia Stack, Alyson Manning, Teri Voight, Susan Jakuboski, Heather Hendall, and assistant coach Sue Manning. Front row - Elizabeth Bergeron, Lynn Clark, Christina Root, Jacqueline Rosner, Holly Carter, Tracy Magestri, and Tara Camyre.

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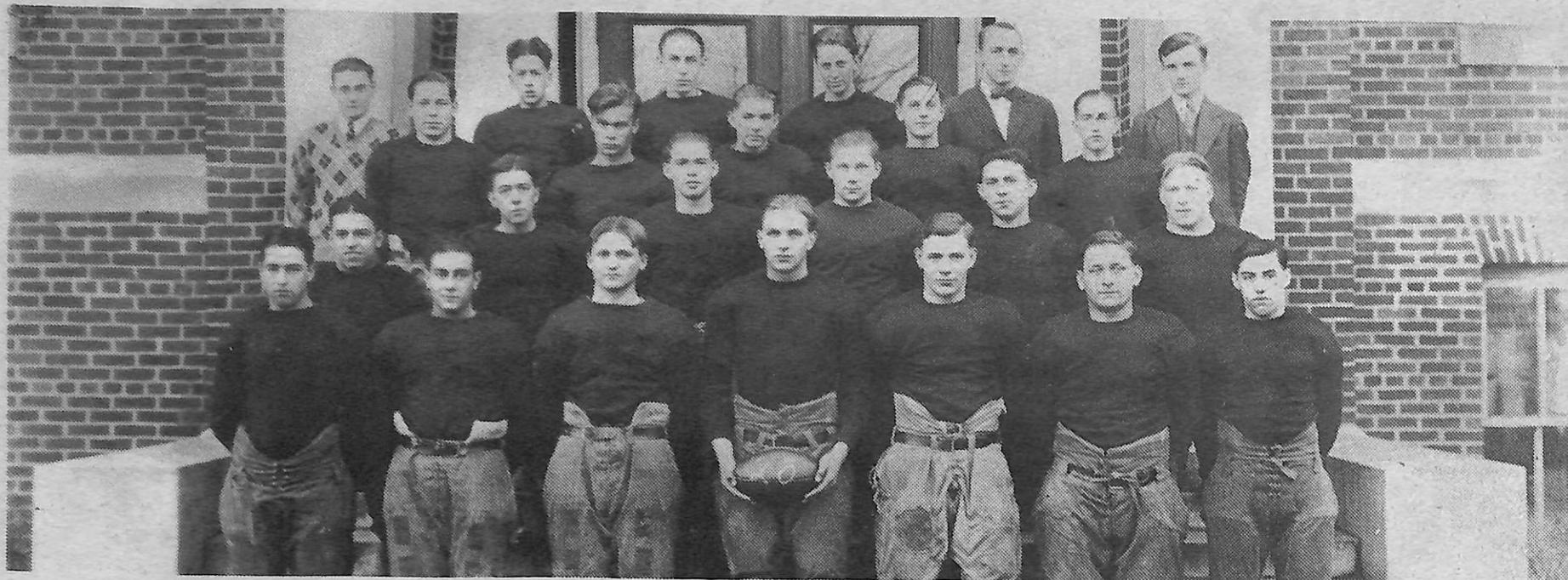
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Where Are They Now???



MEMBERS OF THE 1928 Agawam High School varsity football team, under the mentorship of Harmon Smith (back). That little guy in the second row (far left) is Tom Cascio.

Tom Cascio Was A 5'2" Dynamo Back In Late 1920's

by Judith Kelliher
Advertiser News Sports Editor

Tom Cascio, Sr., owner and operator of Cascio's Landscaping and Nursery on Meadow Street, Agawam, enjoyed watching his grandson, Tom Cascio, play freshman and junior varsity football at the Agawam Junior High and Agawam High School, respectively, over the past two seasons.

In fact, Cascio admitted it is a special thrill for him to see his grandson play a sport he participated in with distinction nearly 60 years ago (at the same position as well).

Cascio graduated from AHS in 1929 and was a member of the Brownie football team for three years, including the season when the legendary Massachusetts Schoolboy Hall of Fame coach, Harmon Smith, took the helm in 1926.

Cascio was a substitute in his first two seasons with the team. He received his big chance as a senior when he became a quality quarterback with superb running ability.

Cascio, who stands just 5'2", was a pint-sized (and still is) bundle of energy who could run as "fast as a frightened deer," he told us.

"Harm couldn't find a quarterback my senior year so he had me play there because I was so fast. I really liked the position because it gave me a chance to run with the ball or give it off to our strong backfield," said Cascio, who also played end on defense.

Actually, the opposition would rather have seen Cascio hand-off the ball to his backfield. It was reported that Smith once said of him, "He was so fast that he was by the line before they knew it. A good reason for this was because he was so small they couldn't find him until he was through the hole."

Agawam went undefeated three years in a row after Smith took over for former coach John Quirk, and had only one loss in 1929. This was the beginning of the AHS football dynasty, which would last five decades, all the way to 1966.

Transition To Harm Smith Wasn't Easy

Cascio still wears a pained expression when remembering the transition from Quirk to Smith, who had just graduated from Springfield College as a champion athlete.

"There was no comparison between Harm Smith and John Quirk. Harm had some great ideas when he first started and did he ever work us to the bone," said Cascio.

Agawam's success on the gridiron in those days was nothing less than spectacular, especially when taking into consideration that in Cascio's senior year, there were only 14 boys in the senior class. Six of them played football.

"It certainly isn't like today when you have different players for offense, defense, and special teams," noted

Cascio. "We had to play both ways for the whole game without the real good padding the kids have today. You'd really get a workout by the end of the game," he said, trying to make us believe a knot in his back was the result of taking a wicked hit on the gridiron six decades ago.

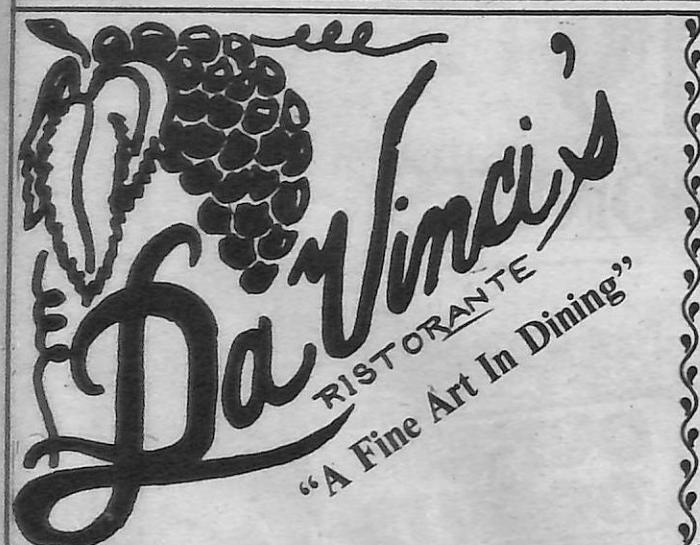
Fond Memories Galore

There were many fond memories for Cascio, but one game against Palmer stands out to this day. In the championship game and with one minute left to play, Palmer was threatening to score in the 0-0 struggle.

Hank Carlon, Palmer's workhorse running back, carried four successive times near the goal-line to try and score, said Cascio. "We stopped him every time because we had guts and pride," said Cascio. "Also, there was a lot riding in that game," (Agawam faced Palmer undefeated, untied, and unscored on).

Cascio also played basketball for AHS despite his diminutive size. He was Agawam's 1920's answer to Anthony "Spud" Webb, the 5'6" player for the Atlanta Hawks in the National Basketball Association. "Basketball was fun but not like football," remembers Cascio. "I felt like a little twig among very tall trees."

**SEE TOM CASCIO -
PAGE 44...**



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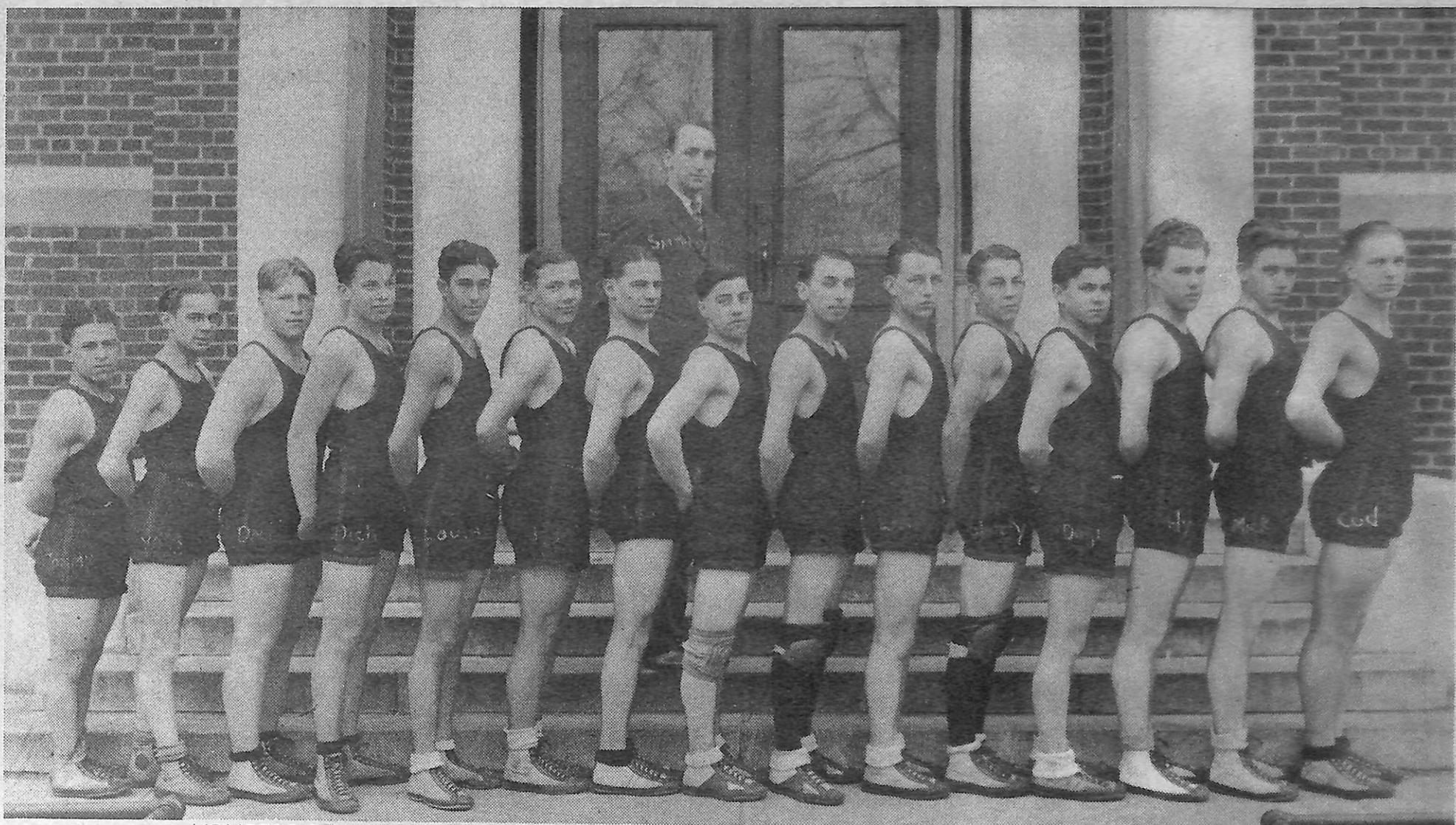
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MEMBERS OF THE 1926-27 Agawam High varsity basketball team, spearheaded by 5'2" Tom Cascio.
From left - Cascio, James Bassett, Aldace Paro, Richard Merrill, Louis Pedulla, Walter Bodman, Leo Canegallo, Ray Fortini, Frank Consolati, Larry Roy, George Reynolds, James Dugan, Gordon Wallace, Ralph Channell, and Cliff Pond. In back is coach Harmon Smith.

TOM CASCIO From Page 43...

Upon graduation, Cascio attended New York Institute two years but later decided after several summers of working as a landscaper that this was his life's blueprint.

On January 1st, 1939, Cascio and his brother, Elmer,

started the family landscaping business which has grown and grown over the past 46 years. Cascio's son, Tom Jr., is starting to assume responsibility for running the business, but don't think for one minute the former AHS mighty-mite doesn't keep his hands in it.

Cascio over the years also became a civic leader in the community and still remains very active in service clubs, including the Agawam Lions and Agawam UNICO.

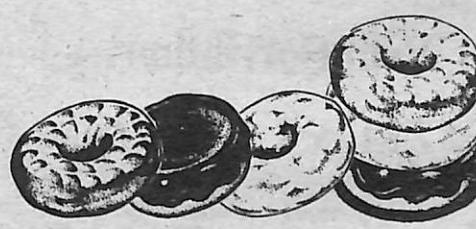
Little League Sign-Ups



DEBBIE CHECHILE of Agawam Little League signs-up young Chris Davey for the baseball season, which gets underway this spring. Advertiser News photo by Jack Devine.

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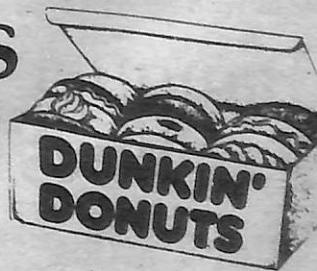
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**Sportsman's
Corner**
By Bill Chiba

Regular Deer Season

The opening of the regular deer season found me in the woods in Sandisfield along with a couple hundred other orange-clad deer hunters. My stand was an old one that produced a 198 hog dressed buck back in 1971.

The familiar signs of bucks still using the runs and feeding in the oaks bordering the buck run instill a feeling of confidence that I would score on a big buck the first day. It was not to be.

At daybreak, there was shooting above me and below me and several nice bucks were taken, but not one animal used the runs I was staking out.

The morning started off with a spitting of snow and fog. Later in the day, rain fell quite heavy.

Late that afternoon, a stiff blustery cold wind prevailed. The dropping of the temperature made it a poor effort to see deer the rest of the week. If you were not successful the first day, it proved that it was a 90 percent chance that you would not see a deer the rest of the week. The woods were a hard sheet of ice and deer just won't walk on ice if they can help it. Their hoofs are not conducive to ice walking.

1,436 Deer Harvest

Even with the adverse weather the first day, the harvest was 1,436 deer, up 100 over the first day last year. The consensus of opinion throughout the state: there were fewer hunters in the woods than last year. I know that the area we hunted had fewer hunters.

My companions at the camp we stayed in for the week were as successful as I. Renzo Balboni and Sam Provo from Agawam, and Sam's son-in-law, Teddy Smith, West Springfield, hunted hard but to no avail. Teddy was successful in pushing a four point and a six point buck into other hunters. Sam finally got his deer liver; a friend that tagged a doe dropped it off one evening. It was easier living after that. Sam's moaning about not having a liver ceased.

I'm afraid that hunting in Sandisfield on private property will be a thing of the past next year. Hunters that have purchased land in the town are making a direct effort to convince the other landowners that the hunters are vermin and shouldn't be allowed on their land. It is a shame, but it is the gospel truth.

Close Town To Hunting

I talked with one of the perpetrators that is determined to close the town to hunting except by permission only. He and a few of his cohorts are looking for a private hunting preserve, which they will have if they are successful.

A fine Christmas gift to a loved one is a hunting and fishing license. You can obtain one at the Town Clerk's office.

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St. A's Flying High In Tri-Parish Bowling

We've been badgering and verbally molesting St. Anselm's for well over a year now and, apparently, the team is responding to us with victories rather than lame excuses.

The 1983-84 grand champions of the Tri-Parish Bowling League, who really took its lumps in the 1984-85 season and in Round One of the 1985-86 campaign (last place) are off to a flying start in Round Two with eight straight victories (first place) after two weeks of action.

Hot on St. A's tails is the much-improved Holy Cross team (2nd place-7 wins).

In week two of Round Two at the Agawam Bowl, St. A's really laid the lumber to St. Mary (7th place-3 wins). Starting off St. A's with a bang was KATHY PRZESZLO (308) followed by the red-hot RAY BARBIERI, that former Agawam High basketball bruiser (349). Ray had a string of 131. St. Mary's was kept from being completely harassed when captain FRED MORASSI (344) clobbered St. A's much-maligned captain, VI MASSOIA (289).

Rolling well for St. Mary's in a losing effort was AUDREY PHILLIPS (312).

Vi has taken much guff about her team's bad times over the past year but she's still in there pluggin'. Vi says that perhaps Barbieri be the team's new anchor if he continues his streak.

Holy Cross, behind new league strongman STU STORK, hammered out a three wins to one night over the AL "The Fearsome One" MOCCIO-less Georgetown team (8th place-3 wins). Old Storkie, the HC captain, riddled 426 pins en route to the best triple of the season in the Tri-Parish League. To say the least, Storkie is scoring the lanes. Also winning for HC was DANA PEPPER (268). G-Town winners were JOHN MLINEK (272) and CHERYL PRZESZLO with a magnificent 341, her best score of the year. Also contributing for HC was ERNIE BLAIR (277).

Third-place Fordham (5 wins) defeated last place Villanova (1 win), a team that still hasn't recovered from its bitter Round One championship loss to Boston College. Leading the way for Fordham were JOE RESCIGNO (326) and substitute captain JOHN O'CONNELL (322). Winners for Villanova were

FRANK "The Lordly Barber" RESCIGNO (330). Frankie stopped RICHIE SNYDER (287), Villanova anchorman STEVE ROVITHIS fired a 300 but it wasn't nearly enough to stop O'Connell. Also winning for Fordham was JANICE MOCCIO (282).

Poor Villanova. The Lordly Barber and mates can't believe what's happening to them this round.

St. Louis (6th place-4 wins) dropped St. Michael (4th place-5 wins), three games to one. St. Mike's opened its Round Two with four straight victories, but the sounds of silence emanated from the lanes on this night for St. Mike's.

St. Lou, last year's grand champions, were spearheaded by MIKE O'CONNELL JR., (307) and captain DEBBIE POIRIER (303), the only two rollers in this match over the 300 pinfall. St. Mike's winners were GINNY BENJAMIN (297) and PAULINE DEPALO (290). St. Mike's captain MIKE O'CONNELL fell on hard times with a lowly 282.

Round One kingpins Boston College (5th place-5 wins) split with Notre Dame (11th place-3 wins), two wins each. BC is still basking in its first round title. ND, on the otherhand, has returned to the cellar after a very fine first round. Perhaps ND finds it easier to be losers than winners.

JOEY CALABRAIS started ND off in good fashion (314), but SANDY PRZESZLO battled BC back with a 299. RENEE JURY of ND then fired an excellent 322 but BC captain BOBBY MOCCIO, the MVP of Round One, returned the volley with a 350-331 victory over JOHN RESCIGNO (331). This was a good battle.

Loyola moved up the ladder somewhat by defeating Catholic University (10th place-2 wins), three wins to one. The 300 scores were all about in this wild match as MAYBETH "Miss Consistent" COUGHLIN (327), father-for-the-second-time RON HAMEL of Letalien Jewelers (333), JIM SNYDER (323), and STEP STEPANIAN (330) were on fire. When the smoke cleared, however, CU, as usual, were on the losing end of the stick. Loyola captain EDDIE ANDERSON, who was well below par with a 296, was still happy that his team was able to move into the win column.

Loyola, if you remember, began Round Two by being swept, zero wins to four.



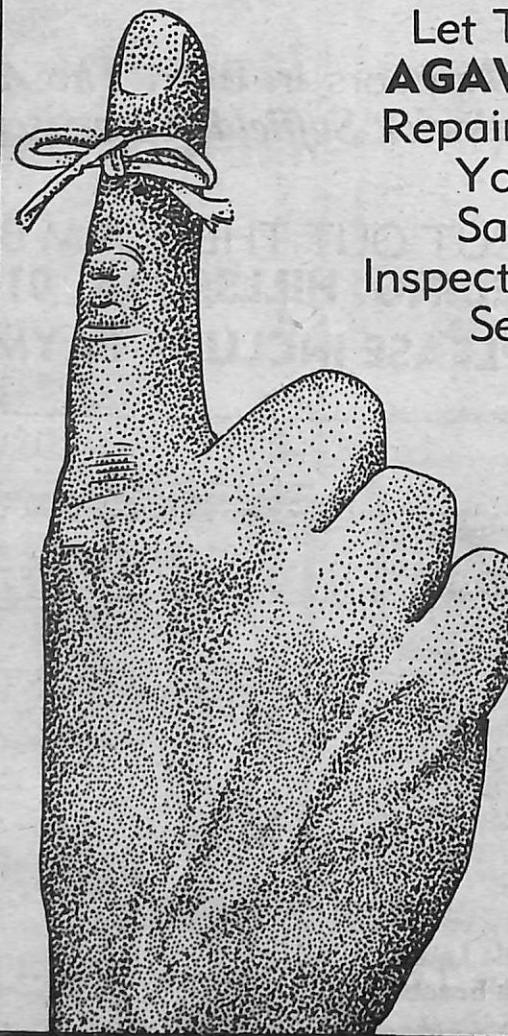
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PERSONAL

A PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Holy Spirit, You who made me see everything and showed me the way to reach my ideal. You, who gave me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and You who are in all instances of my life with me. I, in this short dialogue want to thank You for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from You no matter how great the material desire may be. I want to be with You and my loved ones in Your perpetual glory. Amen. Thank You for Your love towards me and my loved ones. Persons must pray the prayer three consecutive days without asking your wish. After third day wish will be granted no matter how difficult it may be. Then promise to publish this dialogue as soon as this favor is granted. I will never stop trusting in God and His power.

L.M.K.

TAG SALE: Christmas crafts tag sale. Saturday, December 14th, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., 1649 Suffield Street, Agawam.

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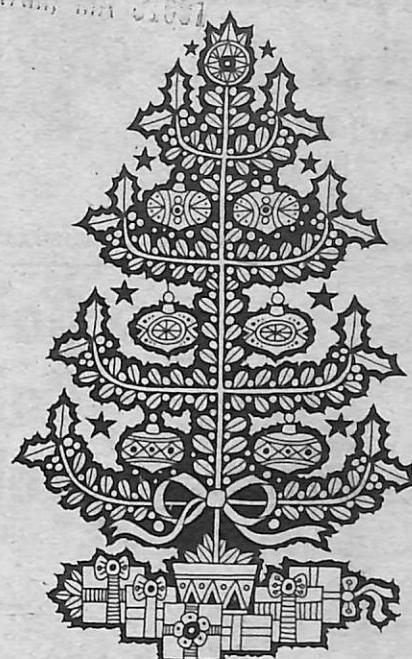
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